Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-158
Tuesday
16 August 1994

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-158 *16 August 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-Israeli Negotiators Continue Talks 1
Delegates Focus on Borders, Water *[Amman Radio]* 1
Draft Security Agreement Reached *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Jordan Reportedly To End Boycott *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Jordanian Delegate on Progress *[Amman Radio]* 1
Jordanian Spokesman on Talks *[Amman Radio]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 Aug 2
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 9 Aug 3

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Threatens Jerusalem 'Jihad Operations' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Aug]* 4
Security Asks Hamas To Surrender Military Element *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Hamas Official: Members' Detention 'Negative Step' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Hamas Supporters Demonstrate Against Arrests *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Hamas Supporter Views Detention, Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Weekly Claims Israel Ordered Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
PFLP, DFLP Oppose Disarming Palestinians *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
'Terrorists' Fire at IDF Post in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
League Envoy Hails End to 'Crisis' With Jordan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Aug]* 7
Al-Husayni, Qaddumi Said 'Scheming' To Unseat 'Arafat *[HATZOFE 14 Aug]* 7
Qaddumi Calls For Evacuation of Settlements *[AFP]* 8
Qaddumi: Rabin Trying To 'Blackmail' Authority *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Aug]* 8
PNA Session Focuses on Jerusalem, Empowerment *[DAVAR 14 Aug]* 9
PNC Speaker Rejects 'Any Changes' in Covenant *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
PNA Approves Building of Hotels on Dead Sea, Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 9
European Consortium To Build Gaza Floating Dock *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Al-Rujub Said Meeting PLO Officials in Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Aug]* 9
Quray' on Preparedness To Receive Funds *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Ministry To Supervise Islamic Holy Sites *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
PLO Asks Security Council To Renew Mission *[Jericho VOP]* 10
'Arafat Receives Chinese Envoy, Phone Calls *[Jericho VOP]* 10
'Abd-Rabbuh on Security, Steps to Confiscate Arms *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Gaza Living Standard Drops 25 Percent in 3 Months *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Aug]* 10
Joint-Stock Company Formed To Develop Self-Rule *[MENA]* 11
Muslim Palestinians Said To Harass Christians *[HA'ARETZ 12 Aug]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Two Chinese Nationals 'Assassinated' in El-Harrach *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Journalist Kidnapped in Algiers by 'Armed Group' *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Kidnappers Issue 'Communique' *[AFP]* 14
Sifi Addresses Governors Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi in Alexandria *[MENA]* 18
Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Yemeni President *[MENA]* 18
Oil Minister Returns From Visit to Israel *[MENA]* 18
Sudanese Embassy Protests Harassment of Diplomats *[AFP]* 18
Minister Denies Engineers Returned From Sudan *[MENA]* 18
U.S. Urged To Break Syrian-Israeli Deadlock *[MENA]* 19
AIO To Seek Over $1 Billion in Frozen Assets *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 9 Aug]* 19
17 Police Cadets Killed, 23 Injured in Collision *[MENA]* 19

Libya

Al-Qu'ud on Arab Ties, Lockerbie, Other Issues *[AL-MUSAWWAR 12 Aug]* 19

Sudan

Interior Minister Describes Arrest of 'Carlos' *[Omdurman Radio]* 22
Arrest Said Proof of Stand *[Omdurman Radio]* 22
Extradition Seen as Maneuver *[MENA]* 22
Minister Claims Egypt Infringing on Sovereignty *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
Egyptian Charge Summoned *[SUNA]* 23
Official Says Aid Organization Data 'Distorted' *[SUNA]* 23
Border Security Agreement Signed With Eritrea *[SUNA]* 24
'Spirit of Hostility' Seen in U.S. Administration *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Al-Bashir: No Retreat From Implementing Shari'ah *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Minister Reaffirms Army Commitment to Cease-Fire *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Four Senior SPLA-United Officials Resign *[London International]* 25
Former SPLA Official Predicts Imminent Defeat *[AFP]* 26
More Than 3,000 Former Rebels Said Returned *[SUNA]* 26

IRAQ

Statement Issued on Attack on UNIKOM Patrol *[INA]* 27
Granting of Facilities to Allied Aircraft Protested *[INA]* 27
'Violations' Protested to UN *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Al-Qaysi on 'Unresolved Issues' in Pipeline Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Aug]* 27
'Izzat Ibrahim, Others Congratulate Saddam *[BABIL 9 Aug]* 27
Peace With Iran Said 'Still Beyond Reach' *[BABIL 8 Aug]* 27
'Final Historic Victory' in War With Iran Hailed *[AL-THAWRAH 8 Aug]* 28
Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Addresses Ministers *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
President Demands Petitions in Classical Arabic *[AL-THAWRAH 5 Aug]* 30
RCC Decrees on Sentences Reported in Press 30
Possession of Stolen Goods *[AL-THAWRAH 5 Aug]* 30
Death, Amputation Sentences *[AL-QADISIYAH 6 Aug]* 30
Absentee-Owned Property *[AL-THAWRAH 7 Aug]* 31
Vehicle, Machinery Smugglers *[AL-THAWRAH 10 Aug]* 31
Official Cited on Implementation of Power Projects *[INA]* 31
Minister Said Replaced After Reporting Inflation *[AFP]* 31
UK Delegation Brokers Inter-Kurd Peace Deal *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 32
Leaders Support Efforts *[Voice of the People]* 32

ISRAEL

Rabin Suspends Talks on Release of Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rabin To Pressure 'Arafat on Covenant, Terrorism *[HA'ARETZ 16 Aug]* 33
'Terrorist Squad' Captured; 8 PFLP Members Detained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Peres on Cairo Talks, al-Sa'ih Remarks, Carlos Arrest *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Peres To Visit Egypt 17 Aug for Mubarak, PLO Talks *[MENA]* 34
Beilin on Aid, Gaza's Economic Development *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Aug]* 34
IDF 'Secretly' Reduces Deployment in West Bank *[MA'ARIV 12 Aug]* 35

Netanyahu on Elections; Qatzav on 'Revoking' Accords *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Likud's Qatzav: Syria Offered Full Withdrawal Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Likud Comments on Hamas 'Terrorists' in Gaza *[MA'ARIV 15 Aug]* 36
Ben-Eli'ezer on Jordanian Border, PLO Against Hamas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Beni Kohen Appointed Rabin's Media Adviser *[HA'ARETZ 15 Aug]* 36
Number of Palestinian Work Permits Increased *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Officials Satisfied With Capture of 'Terrorist' Carlos *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Government Agrees To Train Argentine Rescue Units *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Company Signs Deal With Jordanian, Palestinian Firms *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Aug]* 37
Commentary on Iraqi Contacts, U.S. Policy on Iraq *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 15 Aug]* 37
First Vatican Ambassador Presents Credentials *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

JORDAN

King Addresses Officers on Jerusalem, Peace *[Amman TV]* 39
King Receives Cables From Rabin, Peres *[Amman Radio]* 41
Al-Majali on Peace Talks, Ties With PLO, Syria *[Cairo International]* 41
Views Israeli Talks, Coordination *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Aug]* 42
Al-Majali, Iraq's 'Aziz Review Regional Situation *[Amman Radio]* 44
Report of Prince-Israeli Mayor Meeting Denied *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 13 Aug]* 44
Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey *[Amman Radio]* 44
Saudis Reportedly Delaying Jordanian Goods in Jeddah *[AL-ASWAQ 14 Aug]* 44
European Union To Grant Funds for Imports *[Amman Radio]* 44
Economic Delegation Departs for Iran *[Amman Radio]* 45
Officials Welcome End of Syrian TV Jamming *[JORDAN TIMES 16 Aug]* 45
Crown Prince Forms Royal Development Committee *[Amman Radio]* 45
Cabinet Said 'Divided' Over Dissolving Brotherhood *[AL-MAJD 15 Aug]* 46

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Vows Israel Security After 'Withdrawal' *[MENA]* 47
Says No Separate Peace With Israel *[VOL]* 47
Al-Hirawi Stresses Cooperation With Syria *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Hizballah Official Views Continuing Resistance *[AL-NAHAR 10 Aug]* 48
Hizballah 'Source' on Stepping Up Attacks *[AL-NAHAR 9 Aug]* 49
IDF Surprised at Hizballah Assassination Bid *[HA'ARETZ 14 Aug]* 49
UNRWA Plans To Settle Palestinians Reported *[VOL]* 49
Minister: Government Unaware of Resettlement Plans *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Amal Exhibits 2 Captured SLA Members *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Air Force Attacks Hizballah Targets in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Security Situation, Resistance Attack Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 50

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Foreign Relations Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Al-Asad Reportedly Fires Special Forces Head *[AFP]* 51
Jordanian 'Personalities' Cable Support to al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Al-Shar' Briefs Group Peace Process, Policy *[Damascus TV]* 51
Minister: Assembly Candidates Free To Advertise *[Damascus TV]* 52
Press Examines Aims of Israeli 'Campaign' *[Damascus Radio]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Deputy Prime Minister Leads Delegation to Egypt *[Kabul Radio]* 53
Commentary Praises Security Council Statement on Arms *[Kabul Radio]* 53

India

Prime Ministers Rao's Independence Day Address *[Delhi TV]* 53

Sharma, Rao Greet Pakistani Counterparts *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Pakistan TV Said To Carry Anti-India Propaganda *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Rajya Sabha: Declare Pakistan Terrorist State *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Minister on Anti-Rayon Publicity in U.S. *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Iran

Ambassador to Argentina Recalled to Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Nateq-Nuri Interviewed on Argentine Bombing *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Diplomats Sue Argentina for Defamation of Character *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Prayers View Algerian Elections, Argentine Bombing *[Tehran TV]* 59
Plan Outlines Retaliation to Military Strike *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 12 Aug]* 60
Israeli Air Raids on South Lebanon Condemned *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Official on Progress of POW Exchange With Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Commentary Views Velayati's Visit to Kyrgyzstan *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Clergy Warned on Using Army as 'Tool of Oppression'
[London THE INDEPENDENT 16 Aug] 64
Alleged MKO Member Confession Reported *[IRNA]* 64
Found Guilty, Hung *[IRNA]* 65
Execution Denounced *[Voice of Mojahed]* 65
Opposition Radio on Removal of Qazvin Governor *[Voice of Mojahed]* 65
Opposition Radio Blames Regime for Attack *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 66
Clash Over Satellite Dishes Reported *[Voice of Mojahed]* 66
Four Opposition Groups Issue Statement on Refugees *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 67

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Ending Dependence on United States *[JANG 11 Aug]* 67

Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-Israeli Negotiators Continue Talks

Delegates Focus on Borders, Water

JN1508121194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli peace delegates have resumed talks to hammer out issues on border demarcation and water. Top on today's agenda are the Kingdom's demands from Israel to return two strips of land it occupied since 1948 and give Jordan its full share of the region's water supplies. In addition, delegates are discussing issues, including security, water, energy, environment, civil aviation, trade, and tourism.

Our reporter Lina Abu-al-Sha'r is at the site of the negotiations and she has just filed this report:

[Begin Abu-al-Sha'r recording] During this round of talks taking place at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel, the Jordanian and Israeli delegations have continued discussing topics listed on the Washington Declaration. The subcommittees include water, the environment, and the energy; security; civil aviation; economy and trade; terminals and crossing points; police and drugs; tourism;, and joint projects.

The subcommittee on borders, which held its meetings in Wadi al-'Arabah last week, joined the other committees here at the Hotel today. Head of the committee on water, the environment, and the energy Dr. Mundhir Haddadin said the talks are still in the early stages and described the nature of the negotiations as not easy.

Replying on a question on Jordan's needs of water this year, Dr. Haddadin said the country needs 400 million cubic meters of water, while it has only 200 million.

Tomorrow, experts from both sides will convene to report on the progress of the various subcommittees. [end recording]

Draft Security Agreement Reached

TA1508123194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli and Jordanian delegations today agreed on the wording of the security chapter in the peace agreement they are discussing. Israel and Jordan say that neither country will threaten the other, directly or indirectly. No country will join a military or any other alliance, or a hostile coalition, which might pose a threat to its neighbor. Also, Israel and Jordan will not allow their territories to serve as a platform for any kind of threat to their neighbor.

Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the security committee of the Israeli delegation, said that the security chapter is drafted in a way that would allow it to serve as a basis for a future peace treaty. Gen. Dayan told our correspondent Gil Litman that the security committees of both countries also deal with the struggle against the various forms of terror, including the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorism. The clause also discusses border- crossing terror acts. The exact details of this clause will be discussed later on in the negotiations.

Gen. Dayan also said that the delegations discussed the exchange of military delegations in the future, as part of the confidence building measures, and a basis for normalization between the two countries.

Jordan Reportedly To End Boycott

TA1508150994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli and Jordanian delegations have agreed that in a peace treaty there would be free movement of goods between the two countries, which in fact means Jordan is ending its participation in the Arab boycott. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports this was one of the issues discussed in the various committees dealing with the negotiations between Israel and Jordan. Progress was made in several fields.

The joint economic affairs committee agreed that the heads of the chambers of commerce and industrialists from both states would meet after the Jewish High Holidays in September.

Israel agreed to permit Jordan to increase its exports to Judaea and Samaria by $30 million. Technical teams and engineers from both countries also discussed linking the electricity grids.

The borders committee agreed that it would study maps tomorrow, and the Jordanians would present their positions.

It was agreed that Jordanian civilian aircraft would fly over Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Jericho to Jordan. The altitude has still not been decided.

Jordanian Delegate on Progress

JN1508165994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Subcommittees of the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations today concluded the first day of the second week of the current round of talks taking place at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel. Our correspondent Jamal al-'Abbadi has the details:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Abbadi] Speaking to reporters at the end of today's talks, Jordan's chief negotiator Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, had this to say:

[Al-Tarawinah] Today's discussions were a followup to last week's. The committees picked up where they left off last Wednesday. Progress has been made, in particular by the economic committee, where Jordanian exports to the West Bank and the Gaza strip had been a sticking point. Regarding the crossing points, and the entry of goods and customs tariffs in the interim stage, these fall within Israel's jurisdiction. Agreement has been reached on $30 million worth of goods. The subject is still under review; we are working on a

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

list of the goods that Jordanians may export in keeping with international standards and specifications.

Our discussions also covered the value added tax and other related matters. Exports from Jordan to the West Bank are for the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors to work out. We hope this matter will be settled after we finalize all the necessary procedures. The $30 million is a decent figure, which we hope will cover only the period to the end of the year. The volume of goods that may be exported to the West Bank in the future will be worked out with our brother Palestinians.

Our discussions also covered technical details of civil aviation and air corridors. Progress was also made there. There will be a further review of technicalities when we resume negotiations tomorrow. We will also examine the border issue, occupied Jordanian territory, security, and water. We probed these topics in the morning and we will discuss them further tomorrow. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the official Jordanian spokesman, has expressed the hope that, by week's end, the talks will yield positive results. He indicated the committees are still working on all details. He emphasized that there are no snags in the negotiations. In any negotiating exercise, however, al-Mu'ashshir noted, there are bound to be difficulties.

Jordanian Spokesman on Talks

JN1608055394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Bilateral talks between Jordan and Israel resume today on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea.

Jordanian Official Spokesman Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir has announced that Israel agreed to allow the Palestinian private sector outside the self-rule authority to import Jordanian goods worth $30 million until the end of the year.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the negotiators are making progress on some issues, except the issue of lands, borders, and water which need more accurate details.

He said talks on joint terrorism and development projects would begin today, adding that separate teams are discussing the environment, police cooperation, trade, and civil aviation.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir predicted an agreement on civil aviation by the end of the week, and Israeli reports said the two sides are close to hooking up their electric grids.

He said Jordan has proposed to Israel five air corridors that would allow its planes to fly over Israel. He announced that the trilateral Jordan-Israel-American Committee will hold several meetings during the coming weeks to discuss the progress achieved in the economic field and the joint projects.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir has affirmed that Jordan will not receive any Israeli goods, and will not allow the exchange of visits until after signing a peace accord between Jordan and Israel.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 Aug

NC1308093094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Christian Church Reform Urged
2. Brotherhood Official Views Elections, ICPD
3. ICPD Criticized
4. Cleric Denounces Bangladeshi Author

CHRISTIAN CHURCH REFORM URGED

Several articles favoring Coptic Church reform appear in this issue of the newspaper. Chief Editor Majdi Husayn, in a 2,300-word editorial on pages 1 and 3, argues that Christians are part of the society and the press is fully entitled to discuss matters pertaining to their community. Taking issue with the view that church matters are an internal Christian affair in which the press should not interfere, Husayn writes:

"It is odd to hear some people argue that the official Egyptian press and the opposition should refrain of discussing the affairs of Coptic citizens and those of the Egyptian church. Such people use slogans like 'non-intervention in church affairs' and 'protection of national unity' to back their views, as if the Egyptian church were a foreign state in whose affairs we should refrain from interfering. Those who volunteer such an opinion may or may not understand that their arguments are the best way to undermine national unity. Egyptian Copts are an integral strand of the Egyptian national fabric and must not be viewed as an island sporting 'no trespassing' or 'no photos permitted' signs."

A 1,700-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi on pages 3 and 7 cites various Christian intellectuals giving reasons for financial and administrative reform of the Coptic Church.

BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL VIEWS ELECTIONS, ICPD

Mustafa Mashur, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, writes on page 5 a 1,100-word commentary entitled "Elections: What Makes Them Such a Problem in Our Country?" in which he offers a picture of a regime trying to devise an electoral system that favors its own chances of winning. He writes:

"Scheming lawmakers are racking their brains to devise a new electoral law that prevents the Islamic trend from winning. It is our opinion that they will fail. The Egyptian people are aware of the Muslim Brothers' dedication to their country, their patriotism, and the time and effort they expend in service to their country. This is evident from the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

success of the Brothers in the professional syndicates, known for well-educated voters, despite the law No. 100, and in the municipal elections."

Mashhur then expresses satisfaction with what he sees as a society returning to the sanctuary of Islam and deflecting foreign schemes against its faith. He writes:

"There is no denying the sea change in Egyptian and other societies in the Islamic world. These societies are returning to God, to their Islamic faith, and to the bosom of their Islamic people. They are growing more aware of the enemies' schemes against Islam and the Muslims."

Signs of these return to the faith, he explains, are opposition to the education minister's decree banning the veil from schools and to the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD. He writes:

"We thank the pious Egyptian people for their courageous stand against the ICPD scheduled to meet in September in Cairo, the seat of al-Azhar. The ICPD aims to turn abortion into a matter of personal choice and sanctions sexual freedom and its attendant evils. We regret the attempt by some people to discount the importance of this conference and its aims and belittle the significance of those who back and finance it."

ICPD CRITICIZED

In addition to the above remarks by Muslim Brotherhood's Mashur, a prominent female intellectual, Dr. Ni'mat Ahmad Fu'ad, scoffs at the ICPD in an 1,800-word commentary entitled "The ICPD and its Fallout" appearing on page 6. Most of the article is geared toward discrediting the ICPD's perception of women. Shrugging off the ICPD "call for equality," she maintains that women are equal to men under Islam. She hails the Vatican's opposition to the conference and denounces without naming names "those who spurt their venom from behind a curtain and organize conferences to conspire against nations. Their aim is destruction, not development."

CLERIC DENOUNCES BANGLADESHI AUTHOR

The eminent scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali, once a perceived moderate, has, since sanctioning the killing of secular writer Fu'ad Fudah, been exploring the hardline boundaries of mainstream Islam. Unsurprisingly, he is alarmed by Western sympathy with Bangladeshi author Taslim Nasrin.

In his 400-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, al-Ghazali says that "apostate" Nasrin "insulted the Koran, said that it is unfair to women, and demanded the abrogation of shari'ah."

Offers of protection by Western European countries to Nasrin remind al-Ghazali of the "prestigious prize" Salman Rushdie was recently awarded in Europe. He denounces these instances of generosity, both coming from a West that condones "adultery" and "sodomy." He concludes that "atheism, many intellectuals must admit, is a shortcut to fame, a conduit to high places."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 9 Aug

NC1408100194

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mufti: ICPD Recommendations Not Binding
2. Editor Sees Attempts To Harm Islam Under Pretext of Reform
3. Writer Urges Wiser Dealing With Rushdie-Type Fame-Seekers
4. West Said Exaggerating Islamic Extremism Issue
5. Awqaf Minister Says Battle Is Against False Religion
6. Writer Urges End to Controversy Over Veil
7. Al-Azhar Official Interviewed on Dialogue Among Religions

MUFTI: ICPD RECOMMENDATIONS NOT BINDING

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 of 'AQIDATI's 9 August edition cites Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the republic, as saying that the document of the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, "reflects the views of its authors and is not binding to us." He says he is now carefully studying the conference working papers and will respond to any item or recommendation that conflicts with the Islamic shari'ah or contradicts Islamic values. The report also cites Population Minister Mahir Mahran as saying that the conference recommendations will not conflict with religious precepts such as the prohibition of abortion and sexual freedom. "Any rumors to the contrary," the minister declares, "are primarily meant to confuse the public." The minister reportedly adds: "We will not allow abortion as a means for family planning. A committee drawn from al-Azhar ulema has been set up to discuss the draft recommendations of the conference from the religious point of view." The minister maintains that the conference recommendations are not binding on any country.

EDITOR SEES ATTEMPTS TO HARM ISLAM UNDER PRETEXT OF REFORM

In his 500-word "A Call to Reason" column on page 24, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf sees local and foreign attacks against Islam under such "misleading" pretexts as constructive criticism, willingness to reform, purification of our heritage, and respect of intellectual freedoms and human rights. He maintains that such attacks are doomed: "At all stages and levels, and throughout the ages, Islam has demonstrated an ability not only to resist, but to survive and flourish." The writer gives as evidence the current spread of the Islamic faith in the world.

WRITER URGES WISER DEALING WITH RUSHDIE-TYPE FAME-SEEKERS

A 400-word article by columnist Basyuni al-Hulwani on page 6 urges wiser dealing with those who attack or try to harm

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Islam in their search for fame or material gain. He gives the case of Salman Rushdie as an example, contending that "the stupid approach" to the Rushdie affair helped that man achieve fame and fortune. He notes that many "mercenaries" and "base people" who have followed in Rushdie's footsteps have been turned into stars thanks to the over-enthusiasm of some ulema and their prompt reaction to these people's ideas and writings. He argues: "Our Islamic establishments and their leaders and ulema must deal with these people in the right way so that no new Salman Rushdie can emerge in our Islamic world every day."

WEST SAID EXAGGERATING ISLAMIC EXTREMISM ISSUE

In the course of a page 6 800-word article on education and Islamic culture, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi argues that the U.S.-led Western world is blowing the issue of extremism in Islam out of all proportion in order to confuse and harm the Islamic world. He says the West uses some incidents or phenomena that can happen in any society to attack religion. These incidents, the writer explains, are merely individual cases that happen as a result of conflicting personal interests, material ambitions, or differences among people over certain issues.

AWQAF MINISTER SAYS BATTLE IS AGAINST FALSE RELIGION

A 1,500-word report by Rafiq Yasin and Nadir 'Amarah on page 19 reviews a dialogue that took place between Egyptian youths and some officials, including Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub. Asked what the government has done to improve the educational process as a means of combating extremism and terrorism, the minister says a high-level committee of senior ulema and intellectuals is now working on a major national plan to upgrade religious and educational curricula. Asked about those who attack religion, veils, and bearded men under the pretext of fighting terrorism, Dr. Mahjub says: "The battle is not against religious-minded people, but against those who hold false ideas detrimental to Islam. It is the duty of all religious people, bearded men, and veiled women to play a role in fighting these ideas."

WRITER URGES END TO CONTROVERSY OVER VEIL

A 300-word article by 'Ali Faruq on page 19 urges an end to the controversy over the wearing of veils in schools now that the education minister has clarified that Egypt cannot possibly ban the veil in its schools. The writer says Egypt can never relinquish any Islamic value. Later in his article, the writer says the Western media has once again exploited the murder of five Frenchmen in Algeria to discredit Islam as a violent religion. He notes that "ugly terrorist crimes are being perpetrated by Christians and Jews in various parts of the world without any one accusing Christianity or Judaism."

AL-AZHAR OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON DIALOGUE AMONG RELIGIONS

Page 20 features an 1,800-word interview with Dr. Hamdi Zaqzuq, al-Azhar representative at the conference on dialogues among religions, by correspondents Tariq 'Abdallah and Jamal Salim. After noting that the Islamic faith calls for dialogue and cooperation with non-Muslims, Zaqzuq says dialogues among religions help advance the march toward peace and international stability. On antagonism between the West and Islam, Dr. Zaqzuq says this stems from the West's misunderstanding of Islam, which results from Western media depicting some erroneous practices by some Muslims as representatives of Islam. He notes efforts to portray the true image of Islam as a religion of civilization and progress.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Threatens Jerusalem 'Jihad Operations'

MM1508150194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Confirms From Amman: Jerusalem Attack Beginning of Series of Operations"]

[Excerpt] Amman, Jerusalem, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has promised a series of jihad operations to be carried out successively in Jerusalem city in order to return Jerusalem to the fold of Islam once again, even if it takes decades.

This came in a statement by engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, commenting on the Jerusalem operation carried out at dawn the day before yesterday in Jerusalem city by a group from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. It resulted in the wounding of three occupation army officers and the martyrdom of two Hamas elements and the wounding of another. A fourth element managed to withdraw.

Ghawshah said that in view of the deteriorating conditions of the Arab and Islamic nation, and in view of the enemy's fabrication of internal disputes among the Arab parties over who should oversee holy sites in Jerusalem, the real heroes stressing the Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab character of Jerusalem launched a battle at dawn on Friday near the walls of Jerusalem in the "Bab al-Sahirah" area. These walls are physical evidence of the Islamic presence in the holy city for 14 centuries.

Hamas' official spokesman told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "That heroic confrontation took place on the day Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, visited (the city) after obtaining the occupation authorities' approval to perform the afternoon prayer in the al-Aqsa Mosque on Friday." He pointed out that "these mujahidin obtained their noble legitimacy through the weapons with which they confronted the occupation authorities. It is the only way to talk with the Zionist enemy vis-a-vis the Jerusalem issue."

Ghawshah pointed out that this heroic operation in the center of Jerusalem marks the beginning of further jihad operations which will prompt the Palestinian people in Jerusalem to interact with these jihad operations, as the people in the Gaza Strip, Hebron, and other Palestinian cities have done. It is the start of a long battle waged by

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Muslims to return Jerusalem to the fold of Islam once again, even if it takes decades. He stressed that this is the only method the Zionist occupation understands and to which it could submit. [passage omitted]

Security Asks Hamas To Surrender Military Element

TA1508162094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestinian security service has called on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip to order 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, its military arm, to give itself up to the Palestinian authorities and hand over its weapons.

The Palestinian security service warned the Hamas leadership that if it does not do so, tough measures will be taken against it. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian security forces are investing great efforts to capture Kamal Kahil, a senior 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam activist, who apparently organized the latest attacks in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas Official: Members' Detention 'Negative Step'

JN1508200694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from Gaza]

[Excerpt] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader, has announced that some of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists arrested by Palestinian police forces were released today. Al-Zahhar considered the detention of Hamas leaders a negative step that will only affect Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, adding that their objective is not to protest, but to build bridges with the authority. He said: I hope that what took place was a passing summer cloud.

Muhsin Abu-'Aytah—who, according to Hamas sources, was arrested within the framework of the detention campaign—noted that he was interrogated and that he signed a pledge to respect the law of the Palestinian National Authority.

Hamas sources said the Palestinian security forces today arrested 35 Hamas officials and activists following two attacks launched by armed Hamas men on the border of the self-rule area in Gaza. An Israeli was killed and seven others were wounded in these attacks. The arrests also came following the fall of two armed men from Hamas in clashes with the Israeli Army in al-Ram, north of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Hamas Supporters Demonstrate Against Arrests

TA1608054994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Excerpts] In Dayr al-Balah, several hundred Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters demonstrated last night. They were protesting the arrest of dozens of Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip by the Palestinian police. The demonstrators expressed their support for continued attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in Gaza say wanted Hamas fugitive Kamil Kahil is hiding out in the Gaza Strip. The sources say Kahil, who is thought to be the most dangerous activist in Hamas' military wing, has wired himself with explosives and has threatened to blow himself up if the Palestinian police try to capture him. [passage omitted]

Hamas Supporter Views Detention, Gaza

JN1508180494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Interview with Shaykh Muhsin Abu-'Aytah, "who is close to Hamas in Gaza," by unidentified correspondent "a short while ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Shaykh Mushin, we have learned that you were detained last night by the National Authority. You were released this morning. What has happened?

[Abu-'Aytah] It could rightly be called detention. We were taken from our homes at night. Honestly, that was disturbing, despite the polite manner in which were treated. However, it is disturbing to be taken from you own home at night and from among his wife and children. Afterward, we went to the Gaza central prison. I found that there were some people who had arrived earlier for the same purpose. We felt that we were detained, although we enjoyed relative freedom of movement. We were also treated with polite language. We stayed for several hours. We repeatedly inquired about why we were there. Of course, many pretexts were used. Sometimes, the answer was that we should wait for officials to arrive. Other times, the answer was that officials want to meet us, and that they have not arrived. They mentioned names, such as Major General Nasr Yusuf and others. However, it was eventually discovered that the issue was not one of a meeting, but one of detention and interrogation. We found ourselves in front of intelligence officers who began to interrogate us. Personally, they asked me about personal affairs and about my relationship with the Hamas movement.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Muhsin, against the backdrop of the military operation that was carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members yesterday in Gaza, what is the movement's stand on such operations?

[Abu-'Aytah] In light of the need to maintain public interest, I believe such matters can be subject to various assessments. However, it seems that there is a general feeling, not only within the Hamas movement, but also among the Palestinian public as well, that the occupation is still here. This is in view of the continued settlement activity and the practices of the settlers and the Israeli Army. In addition, the Israeli Army is engaged in bloody practices against our brothers and people outside the self-rule area. In a way, what is taking place is a violent protest against the occupation and its savage practices. I always wondered why the Israelis have insisted on maintaining settlements in the Gaza Strip. I believe that had

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

there not been settlements, there would not have been questions about operations of this kind.

[Correspondent] But Hamas has previously pledged to halt military operations in the Gaza Strip, in the National Authority areas.

[Abu-'Aytah] I do not know. I have not been acquainted with such a stand. I have read nothing of this kind in the official statements. However, personally, I believe that the primary focus of competition among forces in the coming stage will not be over harming the Israelis. We are in front of a serious phase which requires cooperation to build the Gaza Strip. We may differ. I am one of the people who boldly state that what has happened is nothing in comparison with the Palestinian people's dreams. However, the alternative will not be the destruction and Lebanonization of the Gaza Strip. Therefore, the Palestinian Authority and all movements understand that we are all confronting a phase of serious challenges in connection with the construction of the Gaza Strip. Under the worst circumstances, let us suppose that we are in a prison. Let us suppose that Gaza-Jericho is the prison. While in prison, we have been accustomed—I would not say to turning the prison into heaven—but to living in the prison with—and I would not say adaptation, because I reject the idea of adaptation with unhealthy reality—mutual respect and appreciation, and to do what we can to improve the circumstances of this prison.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Muhsin, some people say the bullets fired at the settlers yesterday hit not only these settlers, but also harmed the Palestinian ship, which is sailing in the rough sea of the transitional period toward national independence.

[Abu-'Aytah] I believe it is very clear to the Palestinian National Authority that such bullets have made the Israeli Army depart. The National Authority should approve such incidents because they are a means of pressure to end the problem of the settlements.

[Correspondent] Can you guarantee how Israel will react if these operations go on?

[Abu-'Aytah] I believe the Israeli Army is taking the issue of losses into account and that it is impossible for any occupier to avoid paying a price for its occupation. Israel believes 100 percent that the price it is paying in the self-rule area is less than the price it is paying in other areas of intifadah activity. I believe the Israeli Army always expects losses.

[Correspondent] Don't you believe this will embarrass the National Authority at the beginning of its mission in Gaza?

[Abu-'Aytah] Frankly, it is an embarrassment. But the true source of embarrassment is that the National Authority has shackled itself with the signing of the Oslo accords and by protecting the security of Israeli citizens inside the self-rule area. It has placed itself in this situation and it has to endure that embarrassment. I am sure there is embarrassment. Personally, I understand it.

[Correspondent] Don't you believe this embarrassment will harm the masses of our people, including Hamas itself?

[Abu-'Aytah] I believe Hamas appreciates the public interests. When it does something, it does not mean to embarrass the authority or to destroy something. It acts in line with its philosophy and its strategy, which has proved over the years that it is the best to deal with events. Perhaps the National Authority itself will approve this strategy one day. Ever since the National Authority was launched, Hamas and all the other forces have not been accused of carrying out any terrorist operation; on the contrary. This is what the whole Palestinian people feel. I also believe the story needs reassessment, which should consider the public interests of the Palestinian people and ways of preserving the general strategy adopted by Hamas.

[Correspondent] The National Authority's statement considers this operation as an attempt to open loopholes in the internal wall of the National Authority.

[Abu-'Aytah] The previous incident at the Erez checkpoint was more serious. Although neither Hamas nor any other opposition force was behind it, both sides managed to contain it. Many were martyred on our side, Israeli Army personnel were killed, and settlers were wounded. These incidents were contained, despite their magnitude. We do not want to magnify incidents to create an internal conflict. The side that begins the conflict should endure it. The matter can be contained. I call for more openness between the authority and the opposition forces to reach an understanding on many points.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Muhsin, do you think the Gaza Strip, with the economic straits it is in, can tackle the challenges ahead?

[Abu-'Aytah] The challenges were there to begin with. The Oslo and Cairo agreements threw the gauntlet to the Palestinian authority. You have the challenge of infrastructure building; the challenge of building democratic traditions; how to handle opposition; and the more difficult challenges of the Jewish settlements and the Israeli presence at the crossings. Then, you have the terrible economic conditions blighting the hopes of the Palestinian people. The Erez incident may have been waiting to happen. The challenges were there to begin with. True, we have tough challenges to deal with. There is a widespread feeling in the Palestinian community that there have been no tangible advances, plus a sense that we are still groping for our Palestinian identity and that we have yet to gain control over our territory and sanctities and that detainees are still in prison and settlements remain and the Israeli military is still in position. There are other unresolved issues—the borders, the crossings, self-determination, refugees, expatriates, and expellees. These and other problems, such as travel, employment in Israel, are challenges that figure in the agreement. Most of them are the residues of occupation. I think all of us must join forces to face these challenges. Let us consider ourselves as opposition forces living in a prison. Yasir 'Arafat himself told the people in Jabalyah and elsewhere that he had not met even the minimum of their dreams. But this is how

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

things stand. I also say this is how things stand, as much as I hate this reality. However, there are red lines that cannot be crossed. First, we must all of us be advocates of building...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Don't you think that this must begin by all national efforts standing by the National Authority, under which the Palestinians are now for the first time administering liberated territory?

[Abu-'Aytah] This is the case already. The entire Palestinian community is happy with how the opposition, Hamas in particular, is conducting itself, leaving Western and Israeli media surprised. Observers had bargained on internal strife. However, none of that came to pass. There are meeting points and cooperation. True, there has been no formal coordination, but the hands are outstretched to rebuild the Gaza Strip and sweep away all the accumulated residues of occupation.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Muhsin Abu-'Aytah, who is close to Hamas in Gaza, thank you.

[Abu-'Aytah] Not at all.

Weekly Claims Israel Ordered Closure

TA1308165194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The owners of the East Jerusalem weekly AL-BAYAN say the Israeli authorities have ordered the closure of the paper on the grounds that it is linked to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. They deny any such connection and say Israel is trying to silence the opponents of the peace process.

PFLP, DFLP Oppose Disarming Palestinians

JN1508201794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian [DFLP] have announced their opposition to disarming Palestinians in the self-rule areas, adding that this measure will have dire consequences. They said that this is considered a submission to Israeli blackmail. A statement issued by the two fronts said that the intifadah against occupation continues in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. The statement added that the intifadah is a legitimate act and one of the Palestinian people's rights.

'Terrorists' Fire at IDF Post in Gaza

TA1508084594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Early this morning, terrorists fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] observation post between Khan Yunus and the Qatif Bloc. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldiers returned the fire and the terrorists fled.

The Kissufim sector commander, Colonel Ben-Yishay, and several high-ranking IDF commanders are now touring the area with Palestinian police commanders. They are discussing the situation with a view to a redeployment of the Israeli and Palestinian troops that will prevent the recurrence of terrorist attacks in the Qatif Bloc, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah areas.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 15 August adds that in addition to the bomb that injured three soldiers this morning, "border policemen found and safely defused two bombs placed by terrorists near the El'azar settlement in the Etzyon Bloc."]

League Envoy Hails End to 'Crisis' With Jordan

MM1508134494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Subayh Hails Saudi Arabia's Stances"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—[passage omitted] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, has confirmed the end of the Jordanian-Palestinian crisis over Jerusalem.

Subayh told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has received Jordanian assurances of upholding Palestinian religious and political jurisdiction over the city immediately after the Israeli withdrawal from it. Subayh pointed out that the Israeli Prime Minister stressed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during their recent meeting that the Jordanian-Israeli accord will not affect Israel's commitments regarding negotiation with the Palestinians over Jerusalem's status in the final phase of self-rule.

Subayh described the Egyptian position on Jerusalem as clear, realistic, legitimate, and supportive of Palestinian rights. The Palestinian official praised the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its financial aid for the Palestinian National Authority to confront the Israeli attempts to dominate the Palestinian economy. he expressed his hope that other Arab states would take similar positions.

Al-Husayni, Qaddumi Said 'Scheming' To Unseat 'Arafat

TA1408101894 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[Text] There is concern in the upper PLO echelons about the possibility that Faysal al-Husayni and Faruq Qaddumi are scheming to unseat PLO chief 'Arafat. Assessments in this spirit that have been voiced recently in Israel have reached HATZOFE.

According to information that has reached our correspondent, the PLO believes that Qaddumi's declarations on the need to eradicate Israel and Faysal al-Husayni's actions, such as his receiving ambassadors at Orient House in East Jerusalem, were not coincidental but rather coordinated to suit

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

the two men's shared ambition: to embarrass 'Arafat in the eyes of the Israeli Government and to unsettle the relationship between the two.

Jerusalem elements note that 'Arafat is worried, on one hand, about the power wielded by Faruq Qaddumi, who is so strong that 'Arafat has been unable to remove him from the PLO leadership, and on the other, about the power Faysal al-Husayni wields in Jerusalem, where he also enjoys the support of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

According to Jerusalem elements, al-Husayni, who lives and operates in Jerusalem, has an edge over 'Arafat, whose attempts to commit Israel to a discussion on the status of Jerusalem have failed so far, while Israel has held such a discussion with Jordan's King Husayn.

Qaddumi Calls For Evacuation of Settlements

NC1508204594 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Tunis, Aug 15 (AFP)—A senior PLO official called Monday [15 August] for the immediate evacuation of Israeli settlements in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho to allow peace talks to continue.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, said Israel should "begin immediate evacuations of settlements in the autonomous territories."

One Israeli civilian was killed and seven others wounded in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in attacks claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin threatened to halt the extension of self-rule on the West Bank unless the Palestinians "take serious action to fight those opposed to the peace process.

"Otherwise, we cannot continue the peace process," he warned as the autonomy talks resumed in Erez, on the border of Gaza and Israel.

In a statement here, Qaddumi said Rabin had used "the language of threats to obtain concessions from Palestinian and Arab negotiators."

Only the removal of settlers would bring back suitable conditions for continued Israeli-Palestinian negotiations "away from pressure and provocation," Qaddumi said.

He also called for "rapid measures" to dismantle settlements in the West Bank town of Hebron, where 29 Arab worshippers were killed by a Jewish settler on February 25.

He urged the United States to use its influence as principal sponsor of the peace process to get negotiations back on the right track.

The Israeli government had violated the Israeli-PLO accord by "imposing its own settlement" on the disputed issue of Jerusalem, Qaddumi added.

Palestinians were angered by the Washington declaration signed by Israel and Jordan on July 25 which recognized Jordan's historic role as custodian of Moslem holy sites in the holy city.

Israel, which captured the eastern sector of the city in 1967, claims Jerusalem as its undivided capital. The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

Qaddumi, also the PLO's foreign affairs chief, remained at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's former Tunis headquarters after 'Arafat and his new "ministers" moved to the self-rule areas last month.

According to Israeli press reports, Qaddumi last week called for the destruction of the state of Israel.

Following the reports, Rabin warned Palestinians that statements hostile to Israel would endanger the implementation of self-rule.

"A continuation of such statements will create a problem," the Israeli premier said after talks with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Erez.

Qaddumi: Rabin Trying To 'Blackmail' Authority

MM1508092894 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p4

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO's Political Department, yesterday denied that, in a statement carried by the Voice of Palestine in Algiers, he called for the destruction of Israel, as the Israeli news agency ITIM claimed.

In a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Qaddumi said that he did not utter the phrase "destruction of Israel," and that what he said in a Voice of Palestine broadcast on its last day of transmission from Algiers was that "Israel was born by force and will end as other entities like it ended." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi said that "by raising that matter, Rabin was trying to put pressure on the Palestinian leadership to blackmail it into making more concessions."

He added that "Israel is the one placing obstacles in the way of the implementation and development of the autonomy agreement with its arguments on security matters."

Qaddumi stressed that he is in daily contact with President 'Arafat but is determined not to visit the autonomy areas at this stage because he does not want to ask for permission from Rabin's government.

On the meeting of Fatah's Central Committee, Qaddumi said the committee discussed the financial situation of the PLO and Palestinian-Arab relations.

He reaffirmed the need for coordination with all Arab parties, especially Syria and Jordan. [passage omitted]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

PNA Session Focuses on Jerusalem, Empowerment

TA1408134794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] The partition of Jerusalem and Palestinian early empowerment in the West Bank were the two main issues at yesterday's Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Council's weekly session in Gaza. The two issues were at the core of the crisis at the Rabin-'Arafat meeting last Wednesday [10 August], PNA members told DAVAR.

At the meeting with the prime minister, the Palestinians sought to discuss their right to Jerusalem and their protest against the special status granted to King Husayn on Temple Mount. The prime minister wished to refrain from discussing the issue, and said, according to the Palestinians, that the special status which he discussed with King Husayn referred only to Temple Mount as a sacred place. [passage omitted]

Yesterday's session was attended by Faysal al-Husayni, who yesterday told DAVAR in Gaza that he participates in PNA Council meetings "whenever necessary and depending on the issues on the agenda." Al-Husayni did not elaborate on the details of the debate, but his remarks implied that Jerusalem and the Israeli position regarding the control in Jerusalem had been on the agenda. [passage omitted]

PNC Speaker Rejects 'Any Changes' in Covenant

TA1608103394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has called for the convening of the PNC in Jerusalem.

In a telephone conversation with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said he was opposed to any changes in the Palestine Covenant as this could undermine Palestinian national unity.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who also holds the tourism portfolio in the Palestinian autonomy, reacted by saying that the Palestinians have recognized Israel and would honor all the commitments made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

PNA Approves Building of Hotels on Dead Sea, Gaza

JN1608060494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Informed sources report that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has approved an investment plan to build two seafront hotels. The first on the Dead Sea and the second in Gaza city.

The sources added that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Vice President Al Gore will lay the foundation stones of the two hotels during the U.S. official's visit to Palestine late this month.

European Consortium To Build Gaza Floating Dock

JN1308161894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Under the aegis of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, an agreement was signed yesterday to design and construct a floating dock [mina' 'a'im] in Gaza. The document was signed by Transportation Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad and representatives of a European consortium made up of Dutch, French, and Italian firms. Work on the dock is expected to begin within the next two months. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, an adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, spoke to our colleague Basimah al-'Adwini:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Adwini] Which European countries are involved in the design and construction of the dock?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The ceremony took place under the aegis of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]; it was signed by Transportation Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad. For the three European firms, it was signed by their representative in the presence of Abu-'Ammar.

[Al-'Adwini] What are the salient points in the agreement?

[Abu-Rudaynah] It is a floating dock at a projected cost of $60 million, of which the Netherlands put up $24 million. Work on the project will begin in two months and should take one year to complete.

[Al-'Awdini] What is the difference between the dock project inaugurated by President 'Arafat a month ago and this one?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The first one was a temporary dock pending the completion of the floating one, which will take two years to build. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Al-Rujub Said Meeting PLO Officials in Jerusalem

TA1508084794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Jibril al-Rujub, in charge of security in Judaea and Samaria for the Palestinian Authority, has been holding talks with PLO officials in Jerusalem despite police having orders that he not be allowed in the city.

The meetings have taken place at the same time as police are investigating alleged activities in Jerusalem by security agents under al-Rujub's command.

According to Palestinian sources, al-Rujub has held a series of meetings with Faysal al-Husayni at Orient House in recent weeks, including a short meeting yesterday morning.

Last week al-Rujub prayed at the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount, again without the police's knowledge, the sources added.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

"We know nothing about such visits or that approval was given for them," said the Police Ministry spokesman, adding that the army may have given him permission and not informed the police.

No comment was available from the army spokesman as of last night.

An Orient House spokesman confirmed that al-Rujub met with al-Husayni yesterday at the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem and then returned to Jericho.

He said he believed that al-Rujub had permission from the army to enter Jerusalem. The police however, said they received no order from the army permitting him into the city.

Palestinian security personnel under al-Rujub's command have arrested alleged Palestinian criminals in Jerusalem and brought them to Jericho, according to Palestinian sources.

Quray' on Preparedness To Receive Funds

TA1308142294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the chief Palestinian economic official, says the Palestinian Economic Council is now in better shape to receive money from donor countries. He rejected charges that the Palestinians had no administrative machinery to deal with investment cash. He warned the Palestinian Executive would find it difficult to meet the political challenges if money was not provided immediately.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat commented that Israel had transferred all the money to Abu-'Ala' to a Gaza bank account about two weeks ago, and if the money had not arrived, then he was worried. Shohat told Israel Radio that Israel was carrying out all its commitments in the Paris accord. The work permits from Gaza to Israel had been increased sharply, but the government could not force Israeli employers to take on Gaza workers against their will.

Shohat also said Israel had offered the Palestinians aid in setting up tax collection teams, but so far they had not responded.

Ministry To Supervise Islamic Holy Sites

TA1408091294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sardanah, director of the shari'ah courts under the Palestinian autonomy, said today that it has decided to set up a ministry to supervise the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. Abu-Sardanah said that the Palestinian Authority will come to an arrangement with Jordan on the management of the Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem, for which the Jordanian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry is currently responsible. A senior source in the Palestinian Authority told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has started to interview candidates to head the new ministry.

PLO Asks Security Council To Renew Mission

JN1308163094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] In an urgent letter to the UN Security Council that PLO Charge d'Affaires to the United Nations Mu'in Shraym delivered to the UN Security Council President, the PLO has asked for the renewal of the international observers mission in Hebron. They completed their three-month assignment last Monday [8 August]. Israel has refused to renew the mission of the international observers.

'Arafat Receives Chinese Envoy, Phone Calls

JN1308161994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received Chinese Ambassador Lin Zhen at his place of residence in Gaza yesterday. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the peace process in the region. President 'Arafat gave the Chinese ambassador a letter for the Chinese leaders.

President 'Arafat yesterday received a phone call from Argentine President Carlos Menem who voiced full support for the Palestinian people in the self-rule areas.

President 'Arafat also received a phone call from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The discussion dealt with the fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Egyptian people, and the latest developments in the peace process in the region.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Security, Steps to Confiscate Arms

TA1508104394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is in charge of information in the Palestinian Authority, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem a schedule had been established for confiscating illegally held weapons in the Gaza Strip.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] Well, there are some security measures that we are taking to be implemented urgently, in order to follow those who had provoked these incidents, and to arrest them, and to secure the situation, and to guarantee the security of the region in general.

Many weapons, which are not legal, should be taken by the authority, and there are some measures and there is a certain schedule, which will be implemented, and I hope according to law, it will be....[pauses] Some of these steps will be undertaken in order to guarantee stability and security in the region. [end recording]

Gaza Living Standard Drops 25 Percent in 3 Months

TA1408134294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p 6

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Text] Israeli defense establishment sources monitoring the situation in the Gaza Strip have reported that the standard of living in the Strip has dropped 25 percent in the past three months since the autonomy agreement was implemented there. According to the sources, this figure was not surprising because this had been expected even before the Israeli withdrawal.

The drop in the standard of living is due to, among other things, the continuous decline in the number of Gaza Strip laborers employed in Israel. It appears that demand for Gaza Strip laborers has dropped recently, and today there are 10,000 Palestinians with valid working permits who cannot utilize their permits because they cannot find Israeli contractors who will employ them. It appears that over the past several days, only some 20,000 Gazans left for work in Israel. The figure demonstrates the low demand for them in the Israeli economy.

Another reason for the declining standard of living in the Gaza Strip is the fact that before the Israeli evacuation, the Civil Administration employed some 7,000 Gazans in busy work. It had intended to provide some of the population with employment, although wages were low. The Palestinian Authority has recently forged a plan to employ 10,000 workers in busy work. Some of the donor countries even pledged to partake in financing the plan.

It is believed in Gaza that had UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] not provided the residents of the refugee camps with large quantities of food, real famine would have taken place there.

Another reason for the decline in the standard of living in Gaza was the fact that Gaza farmers were allowed to export produce to Israel. As a result, vegetable prices rose by several hundred percent, when vegetables are a basic commodity in Gaza kitchens. Also, the price of poultry, in the past considered very low in the Gaza Strip, has gone up by over 100 percent due to the Palestinian Authority decision to ban the import of chicks and chicken from Israel.

Joint-Stock Company Formed To Develop Self-Rule

NC1308131394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—A Palestinian joint-stock company with capital totalling 1 billion dollars has been established to carry out a number of projects to develop the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho.

Sources close to the Palestinian business delegation presently visiting Egypt have said that the company's main objective is to invest Palestinian capital inside and outside the territories in order to rebuild the Palestinian economy.

The sources pointed out that the founders, all Palestinian businessmen, have initiated intensive contacts for the purpose of studying investments in infrastructure, particularly in the field of oil, communications, and banking and fiscal activities.

Muslim Palestinians Said To Harass Christians

TA1208153594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 94 p B4

[Article by Yosef Elgazi: "Awaiting Salvation From Heaven"]

[Excerpts] There have been a growing number of reports in recent months about violent confrontations between Muslims and Christians in the Bethlehem-Bayt Jala-Bayt Sahur triangle. About one-third of the residents of the area are Christians, and the rest are Muslims. The victims, mainly Christians, hurt, suffer, and mostly keep quiet. They are afraid and frustrated. They do not want to complain to the Israeli authorities for fear that the Israelis might take advantage of their distress to promote a divide-and-conquer policy. Their entreaties to the Palestinian leadership have so far resulted only in harsh denunciations but not in any concrete measures to put an end to the phenomenon. Local political leaders call for "extinguishing the fire" before it spreads and warn about "Lebanonization." Others, led by their desire to demonstrate "unity," try to obscure the matter. This is the same reason why the Palestinian press has abstained from reporting these incidents.

There have also been clashes between Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem's Old City. In these cases, however, due to the political connotations pertaining to the political future of the city, the Palestinian leadership, the religious leadership, and the Israeli authorities—albeit for different reasons—took measures to curb the phenomenon.

"Every other day we hear about clashes between Muslims and Christians. The incidence of such clashes has increased as a result of the developing relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel, among other things," a prominent political figure in the Bethlehem area asserted. On the one hand, the man said he would like to rouse the attention of the media and public opinion, but on the other hand, he chose to remain anonymous. "Despite my prominent position, some hotheads might hurt me. Furthermore, it might prevent me from playing a moderating and placating role in the future," he explained.

According to him, the sides use stones, clubs, knives, and axes in these interfaith clashes. The victims occasionally require medical treatment and even hospitalization. Another phenomenon is the desecration of cemeteries, monasteries, and churches. In one case, unknown men smashed crosses in Bayt Jala's Orthodox cemetery. In another case, masked men shattered the windows of the Kirmizan Monastery, which belongs to the Franciscan order. Local dignitaries summoned to the scene found some of the tools used by the hooligans, as well as the inscription "Islam Is the Solution." The nuns summoned local Palestinian leaders and told them that a statuette of the Virgin Mary had been stolen from their chapel two years earlier and was found burned a few days later in a nearby forest.

"The background for the clashes between Muslims and Christians is complicated and complex," the man said. "The claim that this is a religious war is only partially true. The

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

truth is that there are fanatics, both Muslim and Christian, who fuel the interfaith hatred and who will not miss the opportunity posed by any conflict between Muslims and Christians over any subject to inflame tempers and drag the sides into a religious confrontation. In the wake of the new political and social reality, Muslim fanatics claim that Palestinian Christians in the area were not sufficiently active in the intifadah and did not make enough sacrifices in its name; consequently, they should not share the fruits of victory. Some go even further and claim that while the Muslims became poorer during the intifadah, the Christians continued to do business with Israel and grew richer. The people spreading these claims do not even bother to provide corroborating evidence.

"The tension between Muslims and Christians, which occasionally deteriorates into violent confrontations, grew recently over a material and mundane issue rather than a religious one: land. In anticipation of the implementation of autonomy and the possible establishment of a Palestinian state in the future, various elements have been trying to appropriate unused land to build houses, businesses, and factories. A large part of the unused land in the area is owned by people who emigrated to other countries, including Latin America. For example, there are more Palestinians born in Bayt Jala in Chile than in Bayt Jala itself. Some of the landowners have died and left behind a considerable number of heirs, many of whom do not live here. In the past year, many people have come forward with certificates of questionable authenticity and legality, showing that they purchased land from the owners, their heirs, or some of their heirs. Armed with these certificates, be they valid or fake, they hasten to establish facts in the field. Occasionally, more than one person claims to own a certain plot of land, in which case it does not take long for a violent clash to ensue. And if the contenders turn out to belong to different faiths, a religious confrontation immediately follows and fanatic elements get involved, which only worsens the situation.

"Recently, people have been placing advertisements in the local Palestinian press, warning the public that they are the owners of this or that plot of land and cautioning anybody trying to occupy it or establish any facts on it. Any work to measure or level the soil in a particular plot of land arouses attention and general curiosity at best and a dispute or a clash in which the stronger party wins at worst." [passage omitted]

The clashes between Muslims and Christians are "a struggle between the weak and the strong," according to Bayt Jala Deputy Mayor Jaris al-A'araj. "We, the Christians, are a minority and, therefore, a weak factor in the area. This was the case in the past and continues to be the case at present. The Israeli occupation authorities, which are supposedly responsible for the safety of the citizens in the area, know about the attacks on us but watch them from the sidelines and do not lift a finger. When the safety of soldiers or Jewish settlers is threatened, they intervene at once with firmness and an iron hand. When the victims are Palestinians, the Israeli authorities are indifferent. We approached Yasir 'Arafat, and he promised to intervene on the political level, but his intervention has been to no avail so far. Fanatic Muslim elements incite against us with impunity, and others take advantage of the situation to appropriate some of our land. Perhaps our salvation will come from heaven."

'Arif Darwish, alias Abu-Ghassan, a prominent Fatah leader in the area, rejects the arguments that the clashes in the area are of a religious nature. "These are mainly land disputes. In some cases, Muslims clash with other Muslims. In cases where Muslims and Christians are involved, there are people on both sides who try to introduce a religious element. We are aware of it and do our best to thwart their designs. Those who try to sow discord between Christians and Muslims for material reasons, such as the desire to appropriate land, hurt Palestinian national unity and play into the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities. Being a Fatah man, I can assert that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is opposed to clashes based on religion. Their representatives cooperate with other national elements to prevent such confrontations. There are fanatics among both the Muslims and the Christians. In the first meeting of the Palestinian Authority in Jericho, we presented the serious problem of land disputes in the area to 'Arafat and told him about the attempts to exploit them to trigger confrontations between Muslims and Christians. 'Arafat authorized us to use force against anybody trying to split the Palestinians, be they Christian or Muslim. We will not allow opportunists and people with vested interests to sow discord on the basis of religion. We will take firm action to locate such conflicts at once. We will not let the West Bank become a second Lebanon."

Other sources note that following the entreaties of the Latin patriarch Michel Sabah and his emissaries, 'Arafat called on his men to take firm action against people sowing discord between Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem and in other parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "Now more than ever, the PLO chairman needs the political support of the Christian world and the Christian churches for his struggle over the political future of Jerusalem, and he will do everything possible to mollify them," the sources said. A Christian dignitary in the area said 'Arafat was on the verge of tears when a Christian delegation from the Bethlehem area offered him a present: a maquette of the al-Aqsa Mosque with a silver dome.

"We are aware of the clashes between Muslims and Christians," authoritative sources in the Civil Administration admit. "At times we learn about them promptly, and sometimes we learn about them post factum. In most cases, we learn about them indirectly rather than directly. Those Palestinians who complained to you that we stay out of it are the same ones who do not want us to intervene. The Christian minority, including the religious Christian establishment, is the main victim in these clashes, and it does everything in its power to keep us from finding out what is going on. Whenever we show interest in a certain dispute and want to intervene, they loudly announce: 'You did not hear about it from us; we were not the ones who complained to

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

you.' This was the case when we guarded the Easter processions in Jerusalem, helped search for the stolen statuette of the Virgin Mary, or when the Christian cemetery in Bethlehem was desecrated. One church leader published an article in his congregation's newsletter complaining about the harassment of Christians at the hands of Muslims. When his article was reprinted by THE JERUSALEM POST, he publicly announced that he was not the author. The Christians are afraid. They do not want the Muslims to turn against them. Despite the visible harassment, they want to demonstrate 'Palestinian unity.' Consequently, they have no right to complain against the Israeli authorities."

At the moment, as far as I can tell, the situation has not yet gotten out of control. Nevertheless, if the Palestinians do not deal with this problem themselves, it could turn into a time bomb.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Algeria

Two Chinese Nationals 'Assassinated' in El-Harrach

LD1508165294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Security services announced today that two Chinese nationals were assassinated by an armed group in the Hassan Badi quarter of El-Harrach this morning.

The statement said that a security patrol chased the murderers and succeeded in killing two of them in the Beaulieu quarter. A pistol and a Kalashnikov machine gun were recovered.

The two Chinese nationals, who worked for a company assigned to construct the El Mustakbel dam in Tipaza, were Jiang Yongpeng, aged 55, and Liu Kaihua, aged 63, a translator.

Journalist Kidnapped in Algiers by 'Armed Group'

LD1508125594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Information sources confirmed today that journalist Brahim Taouchichet, director of the French-language HOROSCOPE magazine, was kidnapped yesterday near the Tahar Djaout press center in Algiers at about 1430 by an armed group. [passage omitted]

Kidnappers Issue 'Communique'

NC1608104694 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 16 (AFP)—Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], in a communique received here Tuesday, said it would free the founding editor of an Algerian astrology magazine, Brahim Taouchichet, who was kidnapped Sunday [14 August].

Taouchichet was told he should give a "last warning" to journalists, said the statement sent to AFP.

The AIS is the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), spearheading an insurgency against Algeria's secular military-backed authorities since they cancelled elections more than two years ago which the FIS was poised to win.

Islam formally forbids astrology, which it compares to witchcraft, and considers practitioners as condemned to hell because it believes only God can predict the future.

Taouchichet had been kidnapped by the "section of the AIS charged with special actions, whose activists were disguised as police officers," according to an AIS statement.

According to witnesses the journalist was abducted Sunday afternoon from the main press centre in the capital Algiers, in the First of May Square, and driven to an unknown destination in an armoured truck.

Since May 1993, 15 journalists have been killed in Algeria and several others wounded in attacks officially blamed on the Armed Islamic Group, a rival organisation to the AIS.

Taouchichet, aged 45, a former journalist with the government dailies EL MOUDJAHID and HORIZONS, founded the magazine several months ago as a "monthly of foreign astrology and the paranormal", according to its own front-page sub-title.

The cover of the latest issue carried a colour photograph of the pop star Madonna, "the scandalous Leo", and heralded a story on reincarnation titled "Dead a month earlier, he returns."

It also runs horoscopes and an "astro-heart" section where people look for astrologically compatible partners.

Sifi Addresses Governors Conference

LD1408201194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0910 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to a conference of regional governors in Algiers; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] ...Today, more than ever, Algeria needs all its sons. Your presence here today is, therefore, a symbol for the existence of men and women who are absolutely determined to deny the opportunity to those who think they are able to destroy the state and subjugate the people.

Thus, every time a governor, a head of a district, or a president of a municipal executive delegation goes down to the fields in order to meet the citizens and inquire about their problems he symbolizes the meeting of the Algerian state with the Algerian people. You are the proof that the state still exists. You are the state itself and you are the government and the authority in the eyes of the citizens.

Your ambassadorial role is a heavy one because most of the time you lack the means to shoulder such a role. It is, nonetheless, a noble role which puts you and your aides in the forefront of the government's activities.

Many governors have been appointed recently. However, most of them come from the grass roots and they are now shouldering responsibilities in difficult circumstances where the privileges of the governor's post are very small compared to the difficulties. By agreeing to shoulder the responsibilities, the governors have demonstrated courage, commitment, and dedication in serving the country, and the people are aware of that.

You have to convince the people through your daily activities and those of your aides that your primary mission is to sever ties with past practices. How do we make the severance? We do it in a clear, transparent, and tangible way by eliminating the utter contempt in the treatment of people by civil servants. You are in the field and more aware than anyone else of what citizens want. In my opinion, their

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

demand for respect for their dignity and their legitimate rights comes before their demand for water, housing, and employment.

They do not want us to treat them like children. They do not want utter contempt, which is, in my opinion, the main reason for the crisis we are experiencing. [passage omitted]

You have to listen to the complaints, all the complaints. You also have to endeavor to correct mistakes wherever and whenever they are committed. If the citizens were to regain trust in the administration, it would then be easy to involve them in development projects that are in the public interest.

Head of State Liamine Zeroual has reiterated his appeal for dialogue and officially called on the parties to meet on 21 August in order to find ways and means for a larger consensus so that within the shortest possible period we may return to the electoral process in peace and stability. We can say that, by this official appeal, the authorities currently ruling the country have made it very clear that they are fully prepared to do everything to guarantee the success of the transitional period, with the participation and the contribution of all the parties and sides to reaching a genuine solution to the multidimensional crisis Algeria is experiencing.

The program passed by the Transitional National Council is one of the main components of the process of ending the crisis. This program will not be enough unless leaders of the political parties and public opinion contribute to the efforts we are making. We wish and would like all of them to participate in the running of this transitional period and we are expecting tangible initiatives from them.

It is futile to talk about the past. In my view, the political speeches that are based on analyzing the reasons of the crisis have become useless speeches. Truth, which is as clear as the sun, imposes itself, i.e. the real problem is that we are in a difficult situation and the issue is how to get out of it.

Some talk about the political system, but which system do they mean? Concerning us, we do not belong to any system. We are Algerians who believe in our people's cause and that Algeria is capable of living in the democracy and the economic and social development.

We are not seeking power, and we do not want to stay in it. We are convinced, frankly, that the people must choose their administrators, and we are confident of this choice.

The government and all the country's cadres, even at a local level, are today in full swing to restore hope to this country. Their only concern is Algeria, and their aim is to reform and strengthen the public administration, to stabilize and revive the economy, and to respond to the citizens' urgent social needs. They only demand one thing: Helping them toward working for the general welfare of the people. Let the verdict for or against them be through their field work.

If we talk like this, it should not be interpreted as a sign of weakness, it is rather a sign of sobriety. Those who think they could affect the future of our nation through violence are definitely mistaken. History is the proof that there has never been a force that was ever able to dominate this people. How would they be able to do that? They cannot subjugate a people that produced the likes of Boumedienne and Jugurtha [Algerian berber king who fought the Romans for the liberation of his country from Roman rule]. They should wake up from their own dreams and fallacies. Those who kill without any mercy even intellectuals, and slit the throats of women and children are not from our race, our people, or our religion. They have and will always be faced by our brave national Army, the gendarmerie, and police officers and all those who love Algeria.

I take this occasion to assure our citizens that firm measures have been taken to guarantee the security and safety of the citizens and I warn them that they should not fall for the tricks of the terrorists' propaganda. The state is present and is guaranteeing and carrying out its main duty, the security of individuals and property. There are some situations that are a source of concern here and there, these will be rectified by taking further measures. We are determined to control the situation and we will.

Ministers, governors, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen; this government's principal weapon comprises the country's cadres. The first act I carried out as prime minister was to send a message to them in which I said that I have come from among their ranks and that I rely on them. I also informed them of a message to the effect that they would never be made to pay for the failure, tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, or utter contempt.

Frankly, I must admit today that despite my instructions and warnings, some competent and honest cadres have been dismissed. I publicly commit myself today to correcting these mistakes, as our proverb says: One hand cannot clap. I can, with help from God to whom be ascribed all perfection and majesty, rely on a sufficient number of hands so that our cadres will be enlisted with me to help our country get out of the crisis. [passage omitted]

I would like to reiterate here once again that the government will be completely ineffective unless workers and cadres are mobilized. Therefore, I am urging the governors today to do their utmost to mobilize competent men and women who are able to create a break with the past, which is the aim that we seek at our meeting here today.

Ministers, governors, our guests, ladies and gentlemen: When the government was formed the country had already signed a number of international agreements; we will respect those agreements.

However, there are a number of fateful choices, forced upon us by the international climate, particularly the international economic order, of which we must be part. These outside difficulties, together with the internal political, economic, and social difficulties, in particular the drop in the revenues from hydrocarbons, will force us to take a pragmatic line that requires—a fact that must be recognized here—sacrifices, which could have been avoided had the situation been different; unfortunately it is not.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The government's program is today in your hands. You ought to be first to implement it in collaboration with the other ministerial departments. I have decided here that every minister must personally follow the implementation of this program in two or three governorates. The minister ought to follow—reporting directly to the head of government—the activities in all fields of the governors and their aides down to municipality level.

The minister will have periodic, on the spot meetings to evaluate the situation and will be empowered to take decisions in closer cooperation with the interior minister on everything that has something to do with the government program, on how to implement it or how deal with its repercussions.

The interior minister has taken a number of very important decisions so that local authorities regain all the dynamism, which they were not supposed to abandon.

We have noticed a change, particularly in the relations between the administration and the citizens. [passage omitted]

Therefore, special significance should be paid to restructuring the municipalities and their human resources. The municipality must enjoy the best kind of restructuring, and the government is ready in this respect to exert all efforts, including financial efforts, to make sure that our municipalities possess high-level cadres. [passage omitted]

When the municipalities rise to a sufficient level, we could then talk about a permanent and comprehensive commitment to local development, and satisfy the citizens' needs in the spheres of basic facilities, public security, environment, school health, etc.

Ministers, governors, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen; we had the opportunity to present the outline of our program to the Transitional National Council. You hold this program in your hands today, in addition to the speech I delivered before this council.

What concerns me, and must also be of primary concern to you, is the issues that attract the citizens' attention in this program. This is the most important thing. It is axiomatic that the citizens are waiting for actions that would improve their daily life in the following spheres: Public security, health, housing, basic facilities, methods of distributing water, lighting, schools, transport, provisions, employment, purchasing power, etc.

Thus, with the exception of the sphere of purchasing power, all the other aspects are connected with your individual initiatives and the way you administer the means that are put at your disposal by the government.

On the basis of your follow-up of these files, you will be made accountable, and all of us will be made accountable to the citizens.

Not a single file of these should be dealt with only inside the offices, but you should ensure the follow-up on them in the field and in the workshop. [passage omitted]

For my part, it seems to me that it would be beneficial to review with you some important issues that specifically concern you, as local officials. Among these issues I would particularly mention the following:

A. Continuity of the state. A task in which your role acquires a principal feature and demands action in three directions: Dealing with the security problem; restoring respect to the civil service through improving the services of the public administration; and normalizing the functions of public institutions throughout the national territory and regaining the legal relationship between the administration and the citizens.

B. Purging the national economy and reviving it. The program of the transitional period has set up a strategy for reviving our national economy by basing it on the sectors of activity that can respond in the shortest time. At the same time, these sectors will also contribute toward taking care of social demand in sensitive spheres, e.g. housing, employment, or agricultural food production. As I have pointed out earlier, this does not mean that the remaining sectors of economic, social, and cultural activities would be neglected. You should particularly pay attention to the following sectors:

First, housing: The condition of this sector has not ceased to deteriorate for a number of years. The crisis in this sector has reached a level that calls for concern. It forms a daily concern for numerous citizens. You have a principal role to play in this sector on account of its economic and social dimensions. This does not mean that you should take the place of the concerned operators, but your role is to activate and prompt operations, and coordinate and supervise them. The figures in my possession reveal that there are 244,000 houses in the process of completion, including more than 150,000 houses in which major works have finished.

There are plans for another 190,000 housing units, building work on which has not yet started. Therefore, you have first of all to reactivate workshops with a view to handing over within the next 18 months all the housing units on which major work has been completed, and to launch in the very near future all the planned projects that have not been started.

You have to work hard to make preparations to respond to known requirements and those that will be known from now until the year 2000. You have been given detailed instructions with regard to that, and I will await the preliminary results of the operations that you have initiated within that framework to be carried out in cooperation with the ministers concerned. [passage omitted]

You have to resolve the problem of the provision of gravel, which is still posing a choking obstacle at building sites and public works in general. In this context, I previously asked you to prepare thorough and realistic work plans with precise schedules with a view to activating production at quarries that are currently being exploited through appropriate maintenance work or additional investment to increase their output, and draw up plans to expand production in the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

provinces that require it. I would also ask you to assess all this today with the ministers concerned and determine tangible and practical measures.

The housing crisis has led to the growth of shanty towns in the suburbs of large towns, where the most basic health requirements are lacking. All the concerned provinces have to prepare plans to remove that kind of housing and to restructure run-down districts. For those plans to have credibility, they must provide contingencies for intervention and operations have to be prioritized after close consultation with the citizens concerned. The operations include the transfer of residents, rehousing, rehabilitation of residential districts, provision of services, and others. A fundamental solution to this problem must have credibility and be realistic and reasonable.

Second, the sector of small- and medium-size enterprises: Local communities have a decisive role to play in promoting investment. Your role lies in activating, managing, and strengthening the activities of the operators to promote investment in the country. You must start to carry out all the suitable studies to identify all investment opportunities. You have to gather all producers and potential investors in the sphere of small- and medium-size enterprises, and encourage them by facilitating the means of their abode and by putting plots of land in which all services and necessary facilities are available under their disposal, whenever that is possible. [passage omitted]

Third, irrigation: The state has devoted sizable investments in the sphere of providing water, and draining and purifying it, which would put our country among the best equipped countries in this sphere. [passage omitted]

Fourth, the social security system: The government has started a reassessment and bolstering of the social security system in order to allot assistance to those who have a tangible need, to provide family income benefit, and to encourage citizens to help themselves in a better way by seeking employment, and through creating opportunities for more effective social integration. [passage omitted]

The social security system, which the government hopes to set up, will cover 740,000 breadwinners without income, and 100,000 persons without a breadwinner and without income. Among these 840,000 people without income and covered by the social security system, some 340,000 will be called for public interest-related work in return for a monthly income varying between 1,800 and 2,160 dinars, in accordance with the size of the family. Some 520,000 handicapped or elderly people will benefit from an allowance varying between 600 and 960 Algerian dinars a month according to the size of the family. Thus, as far as breadwinners are concerned, the social security system will cover more than 4 million people who, in addition to the above-mentioned incomes, will benefit from social security services.

Fifth, promoting work: Your work in the domain of promoting work locally and in particular for the young must seek to support every initiative aimed at getting jobs for this section of the population. There are domains offering opportunities for this such as maintaining and rehabilitating civilizational assets of urban real estate: Electricity, sidewalk-building, painting, civil engineering, road mending and cleaning, common public facilities. Likewise, the rural environment should be maintained and rehabilitated, especially concerning irrigation, drilling wells, forestry, rural roads, and cattle breeding. The local authorities should guarantee the necessary conditions by making available small equipment, premises, and financial backing for employers prepared to give jobs to the young, or directly to qualified young people seeking to set up their own businesses. Therefore you ought to take the initiative in this sphere and renew by distancing yourselves from the routine and continuously adapt yourselves to local realities.

Sixth: The management of the available properties and establishments: Continuous self-respect should be restored for the management of the existing properties and establishments. [passage omitted]

Thorough preparations and follow-up have to be made for the new school and university year. You have to promptly ensure that every municipality has taken the necessary measures in the spheres of school facilities and structures.

It may be useful to say that the state, under the pressure of events, has become used to starting preparations for new academic years a few months before their starting dates. Although logically, preparations for that should be made a few years in advance. The government will work hard to achieve that in the future.

Every governor has to identify the stifling obstacles and the problems that may have a negative effect on a harmonious return to social activities after the summer break and must take appropriate measures promptly in consultation with and agreement of the social partners and concerned ministries.

The complicated and various tasks entrusted to and expected from the local communities require their bolstering by material and human resources. Within this framework you are called upon to embark soon on a strict mission—and this I would like to stress—for improving the cadres of the local administration at the wilayah, department, and municipality and also at the level of the establishments that belong to them. There are many unemployed youth who have graduated from universities—they are only waiting to be invited to bolster the cadres. The success of your action requires the enlisting of your activities in an organized and agreed plan—as I have asked for—for the purpose of obtaining the recruitment and commitment of all cadres and officials at all levels of the administrative ladder. [passage omitted]

The progress of your activities in the field should be the subject of continuous follow-up and appraisal. [passage omitted]

Meeting the citizens' needs is the sublime aim of your activities and a gauge of your effectiveness.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Ladies and gentlemen, ministers, honorable governors, honorable guests; our task is very difficult. The citizens fully realize this and expect us to remove the challenge. We have but one choice: Success. Proceed with God's blessings in this direction. God almighty and the people are with us. May God assist us all. Long live Algeria. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi in Alexandria

NC1408070494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Aug (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Mr. Mustafa al- Kharrubi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. The meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League and the general coordinator for Egyptian-Libyan relations, and Ahmad Bin-Khayyal, acting secretary at the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Yemeni President

NC1408183594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1822 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening. The two leaders discussed the situation in Yemen and exchanged views on several issues of mutual interest.

Oil Minister Returns From Visit to Israel

NC1208142694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Tel Aviv today following a four-day visit to Israel, during which he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Dr. al-Banbi also held talks with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Shahal, on prospects for future cooperation in petroleum industries and the possibility of supplying Gaza and Jericho with their needs for oil products.

Speaking on his arrival, Dr. al-Banbi stated that all the Israeli officials he had seen praised Egypt's role in the peace process as well as President Mubarak's role and insight. He noted that he discussed a number of topics with Israeli Energy Minister Shahal, most importantly supplying the self-rule areas with oil, increasing Egyptian-Israeli trade in the field of energy, and discussing the natural gas needs in the region, whether for Israel or the self-rule areas.

Dr. al-Banbi pointed out that a meeting among officials between Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan could be held soon to coordinate their oil policies. He added that he discussed the region's future with the Israeli officials. He noted that his visit to Israel, the first, will be followed by more visits and measures before any agreement is signed.

Sudanese Embassy Protests Harassment of Diplomats

NC1508145994 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 15 (AFP)—The Sudanese embassy in Cairo accused Egyptian security forces of beating up one of their diplomats and harrassing another in an official protest to the Egyptian foreign ministry on Monday [15 August].

In a statement faxed to AFP, the embassy said second secretary Al-Yassa 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hadi and first secretary Abu-Bakr Hasan Mustafa "have been subjected to harrassment, and overt surveillance and sometimes to threats" since August 8.

It accused eight security men of beating up al-Hadi using fists and a car wrench in an attack Saturday in the chic district of al-Muhandisin after forcing him to stop his car.

On the same day security men followed Mustafa "to the entrance" of his residence, also in al-Muhandisin, and threatened him with electric sticks, tear gas canisters and squash rackets, it added.

"The embassy would like to pass to the ministry this information in the hope that it will take the appropriate steps to stop these practices," the statement added.

The Egyptian foreign ministry refused to comment.

But the Sudanese state news agency SUNA said the harrassment was a "reprisal act by Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi for the arrest of his nephew in Khartoum on charges of adultery and bribery.

Security men had also scrapped al-Hadi's car on Wednesday as they drove past, the statement added.

The embassy had already reported harrassment of their diplomats to Eygptian authorities on August 8 but despite this the "surveillance continued," the statement added.

The harrassments started "immediately after" the arrest of Faruq al-Alfi who was working as personnel director at the Egyptian irrigation unit in Khartoum, a "political observer" told SUNA.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since the 1991 Gulf war, with both countries claiming control of the border area of Hala'ib, on the Red Sea.

Minister Denies Engineers Returned From Sudan

NC1308125594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has denied that any of the Egyptian irrigation workers in Sudan have returned to Egypt due to mistreatment by Sudanese authorities.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

In a statement today reacting to yesterday's report in a daily newspaper that five Egyptian engineers have returned from Sudan, the minister affirmed that all the engineers and irrigation workers in Sudan are performing their jobs in accordance with the ministry's directives and that they shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them under all conditions.

U.S. Urged To Break Syrian-Israeli Deadlock

NC1408205894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM states that reports on an anticipated U.S. plan to achieve peace between Syria and Israel is a positive step that deserves to be welcomed and encouraged. It is a step that the Arabs have long waited for to break the current deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

In its Monday editorial, AL-AHRAM says that we are merely stating a fact when we say that it is unimaginable and impossible to achieve the required progress toward peace between Damascus and Tel Aviv without this specific action. AL-AHRAM notes as an example the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations, which succeeded because of U.S. proposals. The paper emphasizes that the deep suspicions between the Syrian and Israeli parties require a third partner to serve as a guarantor.

AIO To Seek Over $1 Billion in Frozen Assets

NC1308161694 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Jamal Kamil]

[Text] The Arab Industrialization Organization [AIO] will soon take steps to unfreeze its money held in some British and Swiss banks since 1979, which amounts to more than $1 billion. This follows the settlement of the AIO's 15-year dispute with Westland, a British company that manufactures helicopters.

Egypt has obtained authorization from the AIO's founding member states—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar—to settle the dispute with Westland. The British firm had succeeded in obtaining a ruling from the arbitration board of the International Chamber of Commerce enabling it to receive 385 million pounds sterling in compensation for the damage it incurred as a result of the AIO's cancellation of a contract to manufacture 250 Lynx helicopters in 1979. The cancellation followed the decision by the Gulf founding member states to freeze the AIO's activity and its assets in foreign banks.

The founding member states also authorized Egypt to lift the freeze on the AIO's money held in foreign banks following the settlement of the dispute with the British firm.

Under the settlement, the British company has received 50 million pounds sterling, or $76.8 million, as a final payment. This brings the total amount of compensation received by the British firm to 190 million pounds sterling, or $291.8 million, which is less than half the 385 million pounds sterling, or $591.4 million, ordered by the board of arbitration.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that following the authorization obtained by the Gulf states and the settlement of the dispute with the British company, the AIO intends to operate under a new formula, particularly since Saudi Arabia has succeeded in building its own military industrialization organization.

17 Police Cadets Killed, 23 Injured in Collision

NC1608125094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Ismailia, 16 Aug (MENA)—Seventeen Police Academy cadets were killed and 23 others injured when the police bus they were riding in collided with a truck on the Ismailia-Fayid road today. The cadets were going on a picnic in the region. The accident happened at the entrance to the city of Ismailia.

Twelve cadets died en route to the hospital while five others died when they got there. Not all the victims have been identified. Four cadets are in serious condition. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qu'ud on Arab Ties, Lockerbie, Other Issues

NC1208143894 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 4-7, 15

[Interview with Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee, by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] You complained two months ago in the Libyan town of Surt of the obstacles raised equally by Egyptian and Libyan bureaucrats, who were impeding implementation of the cooperation and coordination agreements between Egypt and Libya even though the 10 agreements were ratified by the two countries' parliamentary assemblies. Has the situation improved somewhat or are matters still the same?

[Al-Qu'ud] The situation is much improved following the meeting in Surt between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The two leaders stressed the need to remove all the obstacles impeding full implementation of the agreements. There have been some fine accomplishments during our current visit to Egypt that are in the two peoples' interest. Clear and specific results have been achieved.

President Mubarak gave us more than an hour and a half of his time, during which he discussed with members of the Libyan delegation all the points of joint cooperation. During this meeting, President Mubarak telephoned Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli and they reviewed the outcome of the Cairo meetings, which boosted the two countries' cooperation efforts.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

It might be necessary for me to underline here the good spirit that prevailed during our talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his cabinet members. All of them rose to the occasion during the joint meetings. We in fact sensed a deep Egyptian understanding of the importance of strengthening ties of cooperation with Libya in all fields on the basis of blood, neighborliness, and common interests. Egypt is the haven, the support, and the close brother of Libya; while Libya is a security and safety net for Egypt that hampers implementation of the schemes of extremists and political Islamic groups that are dreaming of extending their control from Algeria to Sudan. But Libya and Egypt together form a massive barrier that is difficult to penetrate. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] What did you achieve at the Cairo meetings to speed implementation of the two countries' cooperation agreements?

[Al-Qu'ud] We agreed during the Cairo meetings to lay down a crude oil pipeline from Tobruk to Alexandria, where a refinery will be built west of the city to refine 150,000 barrels of crude oil a day. The aim is to supply 20 fuel stations that will be built on the land route between Egypt and Libya and supply the Egyptian market's fuel needs, especially in the northern coastal areas that are witnessing a massive building, investment, and agricultural expansion. An Egyptian-Libyan company will implement this massive project and its implementation will start in a few weeks. The company has already taken over 12 sites on the land route to build fuel distribution stations.

[Ahmad] It seems that Libya exaggerates figures when it comes to bilateral relations. You say there are one and a quarter million Egyptians in Libya, while other estimates say that the real figure is hardly one third of this number, particularly in light of the troubles Egyptians face there due to remittance problems.

[Al-Qu'ud] All the figures I have given you are true figures that were discussed at the meeting of the Egyptian-Libyan joint committee. In fact they are modest figures compared to the high hopes we have of consolidating the two countries' ties. I can confirm that the Libyan private sector's investment in Egypt exceeds two billion dollars, while the governmental sector's investment did not reach half a billion dollars. I can also confirm that Libya has fulfilled its obligations and paid its dues to all Egyptian workers who left Libya under previous circumstances. I can again confirm that Libya does not owe any Egyptian party anything, except for four Egyptian companies that have stood alongside Libya in its difficult crisis and continued their work out of a noble and pan-Arab sense of responsibility despite all difficulties. [passage omitted]

Libya's doors are wide open to any Egyptian products. It has been agreed to open an Egyptian commercial market in Libya where the finest Egyptian products can be displayed and a Libyan market in Egypt in which the finest Libyan products will be exhibited. The idea is not to give bootleggers, brokers, middlemen, and adventurers from both side the chance to plunder. I believe that cooperation between the Egyptian and Libyan private sectors in the form of barter deals could double bilateral trade and save both countries hard currency. We also hope to see more Egyptian investment in the Libyan market now that we have enacted a new investment law that gives high priority to Egyptian investors and provides them full guarantees. I would not be exaggerating if I said that we have a special pan-Arab sense that motivates us to bolster cooperation with Egypt to the point that we hope to see Egypt become a member of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU].

[Ahmad] How could Egypt be a member of the AMU when its genuine role is to serve as a link between the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb?

[Al-Qu'ud] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has discussed this matter with all the presidents of the AMU member states, who were all enthusiastic about the need to find a practical formula linking Egypt to the North African states, which would benefit both Egypt and the Maghreb states.

[Ahmad] What was Egypt's official reaction to this proposal?

[Al-Qu'ud] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has emphasized that it has no objection to accepting an observer seat in the AMU for a year before making a final decision on Egypt's membership in it. The world is heading toward more rapprochement and I believe that the problems of the Arab East are no longer remote from those of the Arab Maghreb.

[Ahmad] Would it not be more useful if the AMU concentrated on solving the many problems that are preventing more cooperation among its member states?

[Al-Qu'ud] I believe that cooperation is now proceeding reasonably well. Yes, Algeria has massive problems that are influencing its priorities at this critical stage. But we believe that all AMU members care about Algeria's security and stability.

We have great hopes that the new Algerian Government will have greater success in confronting Algeria's domestic problems. It has an ambitious economic program to restructure the Algerian economy and has a strong sense of the economic problems that have led to the growth of extremism in a country where the young make up more than 60 percent of the population. It also has a strong desire to establish a serious national dialogue with the democratic forces in Algerian society that will help overcome the transitional stage and build a democratic state on sound bases.

The Algerian problem arose as a result of the weakness and decline of the Algerian National Liberation Front's [FLN] cadres. The front lost the masses' confidence. Only five million Algerian citizens out of 19 million eligible voters went to the polls and gave their votes to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], not because they love the FIS but to punish the FLN. I believe that there is another aspect to the problem, and it concerns the Algerian people's thirst for underlining its national and pan-Arab identity by strengthening its religious belonging.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

We know that the nature of the Algerian problem is completely different from that of the problem of extremism in Egypt. Extremists in Egypt are completely isolated and have no popular support. It was also expected that the security organs would succeed quickly in dealing painful blows to these groups. Yet it is our duty in the Arab east and west to be one front that fights extremism in order to save the image of true Islam, which the extremists have distorted.

[Ahmad] Libya felt that the Western stand on the Lockerbie issue could improve following the recent Libyan proposal, which was adopted by the Arab, African, and nonaligned countries and agrees to have the two Libyan suspects tried in the International Court of Justice by a Scottish court and Scottish judges. But matters are proceeding differently as witnessed by the fact that the Security Council has issued a resolution continuing the sanctions. (The resolution was issued on 5 August.)

[Al-Qu'ud] Here I must first sincerely thank President Mubarak who has supported Libya with all his mig'it and for the arduous trips he made to Libya because of the air embargo so as to express Egypt's support and backing for the Libyan stand that calls for a fair solution to the problem that will reveal the true facts of the incident and protect Libya's right to ensure judicial guarantees for the suspects. We also thank the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for his massive international effort to bring the various stands closer. We must also praise here the stand of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid who is courageously defending the Libyan proposal's fairness and objectivity.

[Ahmad] But the problem is that nothing practical has resulted from this proposal. In fact, reports coming from the Security Council show that the West is holding firmly to its stand!

[Al-Qu'ud] This is true, but we still feel that some progress has been made. The Netherlands stressed that it would agree to hold the trial at the International Court of Justice under Scottish judges and according to Scottish law and procedures if the other parties agreed to it. On the other hand, the British could not directly reject the proposal, so they cited as an excuse the need to find legal arrangements that would permit the transfer of a court and judges to non-Scottish territory and would prevent a verdict passed by that court on non-Scottish territory from being challenged. Despite the recent Security Council resolution, we feel that things are heading toward a solution. This is because three-fourths of the world's nations, including the Africans, Arabs, and nonaligned countries, support the Libyan proposal, which forced the other side to be on the defensive and which eliminated all justification for toughening the sanctions. What is also of interest is the fact that the families of the victims support the recent Libyan proposal because they want to know the truth, free of attempts to use the incident as a tool for putting political pressure on Libya. A number of lawyers representing the victims' families have assured us that they would welcome a trial in the Hague.

[Ahmad] The problem is that some Libyan measures do not help restore the credibility of the Libyan position despite Libya's strong tendency to adopt more moderate policies. In Cairo now there are reports that a number of Libyan opposition figures now present in Egypt have asked Egyptian security authorities to tighten security around them for fear of being kidnapped, as was the case with [former Libyan Foreign Minister] Mansur al-Kikhya.

[Al-Qu'ud] Perhaps they deliberately leaked these reports during the visit of the Libyan delegation. I emphasize that we do not pursue any Libyan oppositionist outside Libya, just as we do not harass any oppositionist at home, because such policies cause more harm than good and because we have oppositionists at home who can say what they want within the people's committees. We are innocent of the crime of kidnapping Mansur al-Kikhya. His wife asked to come to Tripoli, where she met with the secretaries of justice and interior who promised to do their best in collaboration with Egyptian authorities to clear up the mystery of this incident.

[Ahmad] It was reported that officials in Tripoli told Mrs. Mansur al-Kikhya that her husband was still alive and that this explains why she has remained silent so far.

[Al-Qu'ud] I know nothing of this, but I am certain that the policy of pursuing oppositionists ended a long time ago. We deeply respect the human rights of Libyans.

[Ahmad] You once promised that you would give a bigger role to the private sector in Libya as part of a new policy aimed at an economic reform that balances the roles of the private and public sectors.

[Al-Qu'ud] That is correct, because we hate monopoly, whether of the private or the public sector. We really feel that the public sector in Libya will become a burden on the public treasury as a result of its increased losses and continued operation on non-economic bases. We are serious in establishing a new society that allows everyone to participate. Briefly, we are following the same course you are pursuing. Yes, each one of us has his own circumstances, but at the same time we feel that the time has come to tackle seriously the Libyan public sector, which includes investments of four billion Libyan dinars ($12 billion at the official rate of exchange) distributed among 70 companies.

We have established ownership committees whose task is to study the conditions of each company in preparation for selling it, on the condition that the sale expand the number of shareholders by selling to individuals. We want to transfer ownership of the public sector, which is in fact state ownership, to the people through shares traded on the financial and shares markets. We will keep the huge edifices that constitute the basic pillar of production.

[Ahmad] Are you doing this within the framework of a policy that aims to please the West?

[Al-Qu'ud] We are doing this because we want a greater contribution from the Libyan private sector and because we want to stem the losses incurred by a public sector not subject to the criteria of economic accountability and because we, in the end, are part of a changing world that has an effect on us and by which we are influenced.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Ahmad] I thank you for the time you have given AL-MUSAWWAR.

Sudan

Interior Minister Describes Arrest of 'Carlos'

EA1508162594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Statement issued by Interior Minister Brigadier al-Tayyid Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr on 15 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and prayers and salutations to the messenger of God. Noble Sudanese people:

The security authorities had earlier monitored the entry through Khartoum Airport of a group carrying Arab passports, including an individual with a diplomatic passport. The authorities then placed under surveillance a well-known Khartoum hotel where the group stayed for a while, after which it rented a private house in the national capital. The attention of the security authorities was drawn to the fact that the group was not engaging in any work in activity justifying their stay in Sudan. Moreover, the security organs assessed the diplomatic passport as forged.

The security organs then put the group under stricter surveillance. Its movements in Khartoum Airport from and to that country [as heard] was constant. The holder of the diplomatic passport decided to stay in Sudan. He continued his external contacts, which were monitored by the security organs, leading to further suspicions over the individual's intentions and defining clear quarters for accusation.

The Sudanese security authorities then received an official message from the French security authorities indicating that Illich Ramirez-Sanchez, a Venezuelan national, known throughout the world as Carlos, had entered Sudan on a forged passport bearing a different name. The French authorities attached to their message an official request from the international criminal police, Interpol, requesting the handing over of the individual to the Republic of France, where he was wanted for the assassinations of two French nationals and causing serious injuries to three others.

Following painstaking investigations by your security organs and by collating the results of available information, it was confirmed that the individual whose activities had been under surveillance was the same individual being sought by the international police and that he had entered the country without the Sudanese authorities being aware of his true identity. He was impelled by his own aims as part of a foreign intelligence conspiracy aimed at bringing to bear an accusation of terrorism against Sudan.

After confirming the individual's nationality, having ascertained that his status conformed with the legal conditions stipulated in the international agreement on the extradition of criminals, and having ascertained that the French Government intended giving him a fair trial, we handed him over in accordance with the proper procedures.

We wish to announce this to the noble Sudanese people and repeat the pledge to extend overall justice in all parts of our country. Sudan will monitor with vigilance any attempt targeting stability and security. There will be no neglect or relaxation in this. May our country continue to be a noble and [word indistinct] one, enjoying peace and stability. God is great and praise be to God.

Arrest Said Proof of Stand

EA1608115494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general, has said that the handing over of the international terrorist Carlos to France confirms that Sudan neither harbors terrorism, nor does it have any dealings with it. Shiddu described the entry of the Venezuelan terrorist into Sudan via an Arab country as part of an integrated plan aimed at sticking the charge of terrorism on Sudan.

Shiddu called on the United States to review the listing of Sudan among the countries it alleges to be fostering terrorism. [passage omitted]

Extradition Seen as Maneuver

NC1508175794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese opposition has stressed that the Sudanese regime's extradition of terrorist Carlos—who was staying in Sudan—proves what the opposition has long been saying, namely that this regime shelters the world's most dangerous terrorists. The opposition said the Sudanese regime's extradition of Carlos to France is an attempt on its part to improve its relations with the West. Sudan's relations have deteriorated with the various states in the world, adversely affecting all aspects of daily life in Sudan.

Dr. Amin Makki Madani, chairman of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization, said Sudan's extradition of Carlos came after France had received information that he was living there. France then officially demanded his extradition.

Dr. Madani said the Sudanese regime is trying hard to improve its relations with the West, especially with France which Dr. Hasan al-Turabi wants to visit in an attempt to remove the issue of human rights violations in Sudan and the war in the south from the agenda of the UN Security Council, given that France is a permanent member of the Security Council. Madani added that Carlos entered Sudan within the framework of the Sudanese regime's sheltering of the world's most dangerous terrorists.

Muhammad Hakim, head of the information committee in the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping, said Sudan's extradition of terrorist Carlos proves that Sudan is a hotbed

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

and center of international terrorism. The extremist fundamentalist groups present there consist not only of Islamic groups but also include several extremist religious and political groups that have gathered there to destabilize the security of the Arab region and neighboring African countries. He added that Carlos' extradition is an attempt by the Sudanese regime to improve its image in the West after this regime was isolated officially and non-officially.

Hakim said the Sudanese regime is experiencing unimaginable deteriorating economic conditions. The Sudanese pound is not worth the paper on which it is printed. The agricultural season has completely failed. This has prompted the regime to seek rapprochement with the West. This began with al-Turabi's visit to Spain last month and his attempt to visit France, the Netherlands, and Germany.

Salah Jalal, member of the Executive Bureau and member of the Central Committee of the Sudanese Ummah Party, said the Sudanese regime's extradition of Carlos to France is an attempt on its part to deny that it supports and shelters terrorists. He explained that Carlos chose to come to Sudan because there are objective reasons for this. He expressed the belief that the Sudanese Government had cut a deal with Carlos but they disagreed on its details. Accordingly, it decided to sell him to improve its world image. However, this does not mean that the Sudanese Government does not use terrorism against its people and neighbors. The proof is that thousands of people have been subjected to assassination and torture in the past four years. The Sudanese Government supports international terrorism and gives it facilities in the form of passports, residence in Sudan, and military training and equipment. He explained that whatever the aim behind the extradition of Carlos, there is no dispute that Sudan is a center for exporting terrorism and using it against its own people and the Arab and African countries.

Hasan Muhammad Hasan, one of the leaders of the Sudanese Ummah Party, said recently that the Sudanese regime has embarked on a drive led by Hasan al-Turabi to save the regime by announcing it denounces terrorism after feeling the dangers of the external media campaign against Sudan. He explained that the Sudanese regime's extradition of Carlos is a naive attempt to erase the charges of terrorism that this regime practices daily against the Sudanese people.

Hasan said it is regrettable that the chief of the Sudanese Security Department recently made press statements indicating that the ghost houses [buyut al-ashbah] where he uses the ugliest forms of torture are in fact used for the comfort and safety of the citizens and are under the supervision of the security department of the National Islamic Front.

Hasan said Sudan's extradition of Carlos is not due to the Sudanese regime's own conviction and denouncement of terrorism but is a part of a deal it concluded to serve its interests.

Minister Claims Egypt Infringing on Sovereignty

EA1608104794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Bishop Gabriel Rorich, the minister of state at the foreign ministry, has said that the ministry is now evaluating Egyptian behavior toward the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Egypt and will issue a detailed statement on this issue.

The minister of state at the foreign ministry described the behavior of the Egyptian security organs toward the mission as infringing on Sudan's sovereignty and not taking into account good neighborliness. He said that such behavior would not help in settling the outstanding problems between the two countries and was likely to lead to other problems, despite the deep relations between the peoples of the two countries and the political and cultural agreements concluded between them.

He reiterated the government's desire to solve the problems through diplomatic channels and dialogue, pointing out that Sudan had often taken the initiative to end these problems in spite of the Egyptian side's intransigence and its continuous attacks on Sudan.

Egyptian Charge Summoned

EA1508191994 Khartoum SUNA in English 1742 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 15 August (SUNA)—The Foreign Affairs Ministry summoned on Monday [15 August] the Egyptian charge d'affairs and lodged to him a strong protest to the Egyptian Government on the excesses practised by the Egyptian security forces against the Sudanese diplomats in Cairo.

The deputy director of the general administration of the political affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anwar al- Hadi, told SUNA that such practices contradict the diplomatic norms and international charters. He indicated that members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo were subjected to harassment by Egyptian security represented in threats and insults and the discovery of wires and other materials that work as a bomb inside a Sudanese diplomat's car.

He said that Sudan regrets the deterioration of the Sudanese-Egyptian relations, which should have been distinguished and historical, attributing the deterioration to the Egyptian supreme authorities' procrastination towards solving the problems between the two countries. He expressed regrets over the Egyptian leadership's terming of the Egyptian occupation of Hala'ib area as nonsense.

The acts practised by the Egyptian security elements against the Sudanese diplomats are viewed in the eyes of the Sudanese people as unacceptable terrorist acts, he said, pointing out that the Sudan is fully responsible for the security and safety of its diplomatic missions abroad and the foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the Sudan. He affirmed that Sudan will seriously seek to contain the crises being fabricated by the Egyptian Government to create a rift between the two peoples linked together by historical bonds.

Official Says Aid Organization Data 'Distorted'

EA1208193094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 12 Aug 94

[All sentences as received]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA)—The commissioner in general of voluntary work commission Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Dawm has disclosed that the French Medecins Sans Frontieres [Doctors Without Borders] organization has issued wrong information about Sudan in its recently prepared file for providing organizations services in Sudan. In a statement to SUNA he stated that the issued file included information about situations of Sudan during droughts and desertification in 1984 portraying that to the picture of Sudan today and gave some information and figures about food situation in the area under the control of the rebel movement alleged that it is belong to the government dominated area.

He said that these misleading information and categories gave a distorted about the reality of Sudan today. [sentence as received] Dr. Abu-Dawm condemned this [word indistinct] behaviour, explained that it is against the law of the agreement which the organization work bound to.

He explained that the organization is contacted with that and the commission of voluntary work refuses any conditional support and denies the evidence that organization uttered because it has based on lies as well as deceiving others. He added that the commission accept negotiations and joint agreement with other organizations without stipulations, while that is strict obliged to the supporter and organizations not the commission.

Border Security Agreement Signed With Eritrea

EA1308191594 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Asmara, 13 Aug (SUNA)—Sudan and Eritrea emphasized the importance of activating the joint efforts for the purpose of removing security threats which disturb the march of solid bilateral relations. The remark took place in a joint agreement signed [between the Sudanese] and Eritrean sides during the final session of their talks held at al-Salam (peace) Hotel.

The agreement included five issues with regard to security, refugees, borders, consulate representation and mechanism of operation. The two sides have also agreed to limit individuals 'and goods' movements in order to facilitate the control [of] frontiers and combat smuggling between the two countries.

A meeting would be held soon between the two countries' interior ministers as Sudan accepted to sign a common agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A programme was prepared to start the repatriation of the Eritrean refugees from Sudan next September.

In a statement to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) the minister of foreign affairs heading the Sudanese side to the talks, Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, said the agreement is regarded as a new push forward towards the Sudanese-Eritrean relations of confidence and mutual understanding.

'Spirit of Hostility' Seen in U.S. Administration

EA1308203094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Commentary by Yusuf 'Abd-al-Mannan]

[Text] Ever since it embarked on its civilized orientation five years ago, Sudan has been subjected to media and political onslaughts from Western countries and some neighboring Arab states with a view to shattering its stance and diverting it from its civilizing goals.

The American Administration has embarked on a course that harms the region and violates diplomatic conventions. The U.S. onslaughts target the entire Sudanese people, bringing to bear all kinds of political pressures, imposing political and economic blockades, and inciting Western countries against Sudan. The American Administration resorted to including Sudan on the list of countries where human rights are most grossly violated, the same list that is headed by Islamic and Arab states. Thereafter, American tools issued a number of resolutions recommending the suspension of aid to Sudan and sought to have Sudan compelled to withdraw from the IMF.

While the American Administration was targeting the Sudanese people, the CIA and the FBI were actively seeking a crime by means of which to reinforce the resolution adopted by the American Congress alleging that Sudan practices terrorism. The FBI easily found someone who could serve it for financial gain. The FBI and the American intelligence organs did not hesitate to frame a group of Sudanese on suspicion of involvement in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

An Egyptian intelligence agent, Imad Salim, volunteered to participate in a plan to baselessly accuse the innocent Sudanese, who were put into the American regime's prisons, after American intelligence claimed that they had links with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Then a badly produced theatrical performance ensued to expose the bias of the American Administration, and particularly its judiciary, in favor of the intelligence agency in that the FBI had earlier [word indistinct] a number of judges inside and outside the United States. True to form, then, the American judiciary failed to adduce evidence confirming the involvement of the Sudanese. Moreover, the intelligence agency withheld from the judiciary the tape of a telephone conversation that had exposed the intelligence organ last year in a New York court and confirmed that the Egyptian, Imad Salim, was an intelligence officer involved in the incident of [word indistinct] in which Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat was killed.

It was recently reported that psychological pressures were brought to bear on the suspects in the U.S. prisons. After the failure of Imad Salim's evidence, the Sudanese national, al-Sadiq Ibrahim, was pressured afresh to stand as a key witness in the alleged bombing issue.

The truth of the matter is that the issue clearly exposes the spirit of hostility that the American authorities harbor

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

against the Sudanese people. The question is: Where are the human rights organizations? Where are the associations defending political prisoners? Furthermore, where is the American judiciary? Where is the freedom which the Western countries claim and [word indistinct] a new doctrine? Why is the third committee for human rights in Geneva silent, and why has Amnesty International, to date, failed to express its stance on the unjust case brought against innocent citizens by an arrogant and colonialist state?

Al-Bashir: No Retreat From Implementing Shari'ah

EA1508205094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has reiterated that Sudan will not retreat from implementing the Islamic shari'ah. He said the government would not let anyone talk about secularism in Sudan.

He said the decision to apply the shari'ah was the option exercised by the revolution and the nation. He also said that the revolution was totally prepared to withstand all the pressures and dangers that may arise in the course of its loyalty to propagating the faith.

Minister Reaffirms Army Commitment to Cease-Fire

EA1308203594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman Ali, the defense minister, has stressed the commitment of the Armed Forces to the declared cease-fire. In a press statement issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the People's Armed Forces, his excellency said a foreign power is controlling the leadership of the rebellion abroad.

Lt. Gen. Hassan Ali announced that hundreds of the rebellion's forces are surrendering daily with their weapons to the government Armed Forces, having realized that all the accusations the rebel movement had been propagating are narrow and baseless. He said the returnees are being treated honorably and that some of them are engaged in various activities. His excellency added that the Armed Forces are in complete control of most areas in the south and are performing an effective role in preparing the conditions essential for the stability and tranquillity of citizens.

Lt. Gen. Hassan Ali pointed out that ever since its inception the revolution has been interested in building up a powerful Army and has placed all state resources at the disposal of the Armed Forces. This has proved effective in enabling the Armed Forces to perform its role successfully. He said the establishment of the People's Defense Force has enhanced the morale of the Sudanese soldier.

Lt. Gen. Hassan Ali stressed that the allegations being propagated against Sudan by foreign circles are unjustifiable and target the country's civilized orientation. He said the Sudanese are a people whose religion and faith bans them from accepting any form of terrorism and that they are defending themselves and their legal rights. His Excellency reiterated the readiness of the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Force to defend the homeland and the achievements of the Sudanese people.

Four Senior SPLA-United Officials Resign

AB1508171194 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 15 Aug 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There has been more turmoil at the top of the southern Sudanese SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel movement. Over the years, several commanders have fallen out with the mainstream wing of the movement founded by John Garang. And, since 1991, Garang has been openly opposed by SPLA-United, the breakaway faction led by Riak Machar. But at the weekend, Riak Machar got a taste of his own medicine when four of his senior spokesmen resigned. One of the four is (Dola Trelaleo). He used to be SPLA-United's foreign affairs secretary. On the line to Nairobi, Jeremy Skeet asked him why they were resigning.

[Begin recording] [(Trelaleo)] We have resigned because we feel that we cannot contribute any further than already done. We have always been working hard to see that certain policies (?will come up) which will ultimately result in a sort of unification of the SPLA factions.

[Skeet] So, you don't think Dr. Machar has done enough to reunify the SPLA?

[(Trelaleo)] Well, he might have tried or he might still be trying, but we are not optimistic that whatever attempts that are being made, they could result into a unification of SPLA factions. More should be done....

[Skeet, interrupting] You are now leaving the SPLA-United, are you going to join the SPLA mainstream of John Garang?

[(Trelaleo)] No, we are not. We have not seen or noticed on the side of the mainstream, we have not seen also efforts being exerted towards unification either.

[Skeet] So, does this mean that you are going to set up a third faction of the SPLA?

[(Trelaleo)] I don't think so. We are going to work as a division to see that the kind of things that are necessary to bring about the unification of the SPLA factions—we are going to work to promote them.

[Skeet] You keep saying that you must come together and put a strong front against the government of Khartoum, but how are you going to do that?

[(Trelaleo)] Essentially, one of the reasons why I have resigned was actually to provide kind of a neutral atmosphere where I can speak without being accused of bias in favor of one faction or the other one. It was not possible for me, let's say, to push hard on Riak nor on Garang from a position of membership in one faction.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Skeet] So, you are going to now play the role of mediator between the two factions?

[(Trelaleo)] I would not call it a mediation or a mediator, for that matter. I would rather consider it a neutral basis. [end recording]

Former SPLA Official Predicts Imminent Defeat

AB1408132094 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Aug (AFP)—The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could lose the country's bloody civil war within a few months, a top defector predicted Saturday [13 August]. John Kwlang, former chief of staff of the breakaway SPLA-united faction, said the Sudanese government Army could be in control of the whole country with months and that rebel leader John Garang might be defeated by early next year.

In an interview published Saturday by daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, Kwlang said: "For two years now Garang has not made new recruits to his army and the old army is falling apart." Kwlang, who was one of the founders of the SPLA, said Garang had been confined to a defensive position and was no longer capable of launching attacks. But the defector admitted that the main rebel faction "could lead a bush war in the jungle." He added that Garang's main strategy at present was to coordinate with the northern Sudan opposition in exile, which is based in Cairo and led by former Sudanese Army Chief of Staff Fatih Ahmed 'Ali, for a possible coup to topple Khartoum's Islamic regime, installing Fatih as president and Garang as his deputy.

Kwlang said he was imprisoned by Garang from 1989 to 1993. He added that the SPLA leader had now moved to neighbouring Uganda after recent military defeats, and that his faction was receiving arms from an unnamed Arab country.

More Than 3,000 Former Rebels Said Returned

EA1508210094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1737 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Al-Damazin, 15 August (SUNA)—More than 3,000 have returned from the outlaws' movement to the Blue Nile State during last July, stated Yusuf al-Bashir, head of the returnees' committee at the state. More others will return after the end of the current rainy season, despite international organizations' attempts to prevent their return, he added.

He said that the committee has prepared emergency programmes, which include provision of clothing, medicine, agricultural equipment, opening of khalawi [rural] Koran schools and health centres. The programme, he said, is funded by the federal government's zakat [alms tax] chamber and the peace and development foundation. The total number of the returnees has reached more 70,000, he said, adding that a conference will be held following the rainy season to achieve peace and stability in the southern Blue Nile and northern Upper Nile areas.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Statement Issued on Attack on UNIKOM Patrol

JN1508141294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has reacted with the following statement to the 12 August incident involving a patrol by the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM]:

Soon after the wicked incident targeting a UNIKOM patrol on 12 August, 1994 in the demilitarized zone, competent Iraqi authorities launched a hunt for the perpetrators of this criminal act. Iraq's coordination committee began contacts with UNIKOM's commander to keep the incident in perspective. The competent Iraqi authorities emphasized they were anxious to extend cooperation to UNIKOM to establish security and stability in the region.

Iraq would like to affirm its rejection of any attempt by known quarters to use this deplorable incident to advance their own dubious and transparent objectives. Iraq reiterates its concern to maintain a cooperative posture with the United Nations in accordance with the standing agreement between the two sides.

Granting of Facilities to Allied Aircraft Protested

JN1508111294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the Arab League Secretariat General over the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to American, British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, in view of the serious threat this poses to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter yesterday to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said these aircraft have continued between 1-9 August to violate Iraq's airspace, conducting 215 hostile sorties, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi representative enclosed a detailed list of the violations with the letter and asked that the letter be circulated to the Arab states to inform them about these regrettable facts.

'Violations' Protested to UN

JN1608122394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Iraq has protested continued violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

A letter from Iraq's permanent delegate to the UN secretary general noted that from 2 to 8 August, the aircraft mounted 340 sorties across northern and southern Iraq.

He asked that the letter be circulated at the UN Security Council as an official document.

Al-Qaysi on 'Unresolved Issues' in Pipeline Talks

JN1508104394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 24

[Text] Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, has said that there are still some issues that need further negotiation in order to reach a solution regarding the flushing of the Iraqi oil pipeline.

While in Amman on his way back to Baghdad from Ankara, Dr. al-Qaysi told AL-DUSTUR that the statements made two days ago by Ozdem Sanberk, the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, about full agreement between the Iraqi and Turkish sides are inaccurate.

The Iraqi official said that Iraq considers these to be outstanding issues, particularly the distribution of supplies throughout Iraq, which remain unresolved. He added that one cannot say there is full agreement before reaching agreement on these issues.

Dr. al-Qaysi noted that the final round of negotiations between Iraq and Turkey was basically aimed at briefing Iraq on the latest Turkish contacts with some UN Security Council members following the talks held in New York last July. He said that the final round was also aimed at exchanging viewpoints on means to control the process of flushing the pipeline once agreement is reached on all related issues.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Others Congratulate Saddam

JN1408164094 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received well-wishers on the Great Day anniversary [marking the end of the Iraq-Iran war]. Extending congratulations to his excellency on this great anniversary were 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, vice presidents; Tariq 'Aziz and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, deputy prime ministers; the comrade members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Iraq Command; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; and the fighter members of the Armed Forces General Command.

The president leader thanked the well-wishers and asked them to convey his greetings and congratulations to their families and to all sons of our steadfast Iraqi people on this immortal day in the history of great Iraq.

Peace With Iran Said 'Still Beyond Reach'

JN1408144794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Iran—Peace or Truce?!"]

[Text] Today, six years after the Iraq-Iran War and Iraqi victory, peace is still beyond reach. Iranian officials are responsible for everything that happened in September 1988 and for what is happening now. This includes Iran's deliberate insistence on lending the peace process with Iraq the air of a truce that is vulnerable to violation. They are also

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

returning to arms amid regional and international conditions that are different from those that existed at the outbreak of war between Iraq and Iran and at the creation of peace from the bloodbath of the eight-year war. By these new conditions, we mean the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp from the map of the world and the U.S. rush to control international life, becoming an undesirable neighbor for Iraq and Iran, thanks to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. The same could also be said about Israel with regard to Iraq, thanks to the current and future agreements between Arabs and Tel Aviv.

It seems Iran is not ignorant of all these facts in its dealings with Iraq. It is trying to assume a major role within the context of these new facts, or to at least use them to its benefit against Iraq, following the pattern of events in the chapter of treachery and treason. But, this time, it is doing so more openly and on a larger scale. It is doing so in the form of a new war under pretexts that range from claims about the continued existence of Iranian prisoners in Iraq despite Red Cross denials, to the existence of Mojahedin-e Khalq on Iraqi territory, and the demand for Iraqi payment of war reparations to Tehran. In other words, Iran wants the aggressor to be rewarded for his aggression, as the United States and the coalition states would want. When speaking about the mujahidin, Iran purposely ignores those inside Iran, in Tehran and other Iranian cities. It purposely misleads Iranian and international public opinion about its interference in Iraq's internal affairs and its sponsorship of renegades—it gives them offices, funds, and arms on the border with Iraq, in Tehran, and elsewhere, and sends infiltrators to carry out terrorist acts inside Iraqi territory.

The simple man in the street in our country can see that the Iranian rulers are escalating their terrorism against Iraq with every announcement of a visit to our country by an Iranian official or with the arrival of an Iranian official in Baghdad. The aim is simultaneously obvious and ridiculous. The Iranian rulers think terrorism works in favor of the visitor's mission.

Is Iran prepared for another war against Iraq?

Political and economic conditions inside Iran will not help Tehran's rulers carry out a large-scale aggression against our country. Iranians do not seem prepared, after all the ruination and human loss they sustained in the war against Iraq, to follow their rulers anew. On the contrary, all their activities are directed against the disastrous domestic and foreign policies of those rulers. It seems Tehran's rulers understand this. They resort to a short-sighted policy of aggression. We see this in the treacherous air raids on Mojahidin-e Khalq in Iraq or the strikes against Iraqi Kurds and their villages in the Autonomous Region, where Iran is benefiting from the current situation in that region, which remains outside the state's sovereignty. The Iranians forget, under the pressure of their erroneous calculations, that those crimes will absolutely not go unpunished by Iraqis. Still, as far as Iran is concerned, everything is possible, including war itself, depending on U.S. and "Israeli" calculations, which will be determined by the course of events in the region regarding the settlement between the Arabs and the "Israelis."

On the other hand, the calculations might demand a change of the Iranian regime itself, through a military coup or some other action, now that the regime has played its role against Iraq and become unpopular inside Iran as well as inside and outside the region.

The Great Victory Day on 8 August 1988 was a general victory over Iran and the big powers behind it, led by the United States and the West. It was a crowning victory for the Iraqis, planned by leader President Saddam Husayn. Iraq also triumphed over their opportunist friends, including large and small states.

Furthermore, Iraq triumphed over Arab opportunists, who were threatened with Iranian invasion, if not for the barrier of Iraqi fire that blocked the greedy racists. They were with Iraq in public, but with Iran in secret. They sought with every means at their disposal to conclude lowly deals with the Iranians, but Iran rejected them because they were beneath the ambitions of the "empire" they sought. They also wanted to confine the war to Iraq. This reminds us of the efforts Britain and the United States exerted with Hitler in order to turn the war completely against the Soviets. Those efforts included Churchill's secret contacts with the Fuhrer and the suspension of U.S. arms supplies to the Soviet Union, a member of the Allied forces against the Axis states. Hitler rejected those efforts because they conflicted with Nazi Germany's desire to control the world.

The Great Victory Day is not only a glorious day in the minds, conscience, and souls of the Iraqis, but it is also a call to uphold national responsibility against enemies of all nationalities, who still see in Iraq a danger threatening their illegitimate interests in the region. They consider Iraq's victories and steadfastness a powerful example for the Third World nations that are beginning to rouse themselves from the powerful shock caused by the collapse and dismantling of a big power, the Soviet Union, and the emergence of the United States as a single superpower seeking to rule the world. Those nations are now preparing themselves for new liberation and independence wars against old and neo-imperialists, inspired by the heroism of the Iraqis in the face of the widest aggressive international coalition, led by the United States, directed against their homeland, as well as by Iraqi steadfastness against the aggressors amid criminal starvation and the inhuman deprivation of medicine carried out in the name of the UN Security Council. Foes, before friends, understand that were it not for Saddam Husayn's military, political, and economic strategy and the Iraqi people's solidarity with their leader, Iraq would not have triumphed in the war against Iran and preserved its sovereignty and independence in the Mother of Battles.

Now and in the future, Iraqis under the leadership of Saddam Husayn will create thousands of suns to brighten their glorious march and the march of all strugglers for the sake of independence and freedom in the world.

'Final Historic Victory' in War With Iran Hailed

JN1408154394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Guarantee of Power and Lasting Victory"]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Text] After eight years of a just defensive war, honorable and brave fighting, heroic epics and deeds, and great sacrifices our struggling people achieved on such a day, on 8 August 1988, a great comprehensive and final historic victory against the Iranian regime. That regime imposed the war on Iraq on 4 September 1980 and insisted on continuing that war, prompted by its greed and sick expansionist dreams, through coordination with the imperialist and Zionist forces, which were, and still are, conspiring against Iraq and seeking to weaken it and hamper its advancement and progress.

While it is our right, we the Iraqis, to celebrate this great day and to rejoice in this great national and pan-Arab victory, it is also essential and urgent to recall some important facts and proofs which became firm and clear on 8 August 1988. Foremost is the fact that Iraq's final and decisive victory in the second al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] was not just a military victory, but a general victory in every sense. It was a political, intellectual, social, and cultural victory; a victory for Iraq's socialist pan-Arab line and its unique historical leadership over the entire erroneous Iranian political line and its backward leadership.

The other fact that deserves to be recalled is that Iraq's victory in its sacred defensive war represented a victory for the entire Arab nation. This is not only because it was achieved by the nation's spirit and cultural and historical depth, but also because it was a pan-Arab achievement in all of its dimensions and effects. It was an achievement that restored the nation's confidence in itself and its future. It spread within the ranks of its sons a firm belief in the nation's ability to defend its sovereignty, honor amd pan-Arab security, to achieve victory, and to liberate the land from the filth of foreign occupation. The significance of this victory has not been diminished by the fact that the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers "rewarded" Iraq, which protected land and honor and barred the yellow Khomeyniite winds from sweeping the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula region, by their mean political and economic plotting, paving the way for the U.S.-NATO aggression, and imposing an unfair blockade on the Iraqi people.

The most significant fact of our outstanding, final victory on this great day is that Iraq possesses all the conditions and means of victory; foremost, its people who are solidly united behind their faithful and courageous leadership and its heroic Armed Forces. Iraq triumphed, defeated the Iranian aggression, and foiled the expansionist Khomeynite program thanks to its people's maturity, patience, firmness, and unlimited readiness for sacrifice. It also triumphed thanks to the leading strategic role the symbol leader Saddam Husayn played politically and militarily by managing the conflict so well and by his sound assessments and excellent ability to mobilize the masses for the battle of defending land and honor. It triumphed thanks to the competent performance of the brave Armed Forces and their continuous alertness and high capability.

The other basic factor, which emerged clearly in the events and developments that followed Great Victory Day, is that Iraq's great victory made the imperialist and Zionist forces who backed the Iranian regime and supplied it with all kinds of military, propaganda, and intelligence support, lose their senses. This victory, which was not expected or wanted by the imperialist and Zionist forces, made them act quickly and plot feverishly against Iraq. They launched their rabid political propaganda campaigns against Iraq starting on 9 August 1988; that is, on the day after the cease-fire, in order to circumvent and play down the Iraqi victory and prepare the scene for an armed aggression in order to achieve what the Iranian aggression could not achieve—hence the savage U.S.-NATO aggression in January 1991, which was preceded by the unfair blockade, and hence the war of starvation, impoverization, and political isolation.

Today, as we celebrate the day of victory and peace and recall those glorious days in the history of modern Iraq and the meanings and significance of that historic victory, we gain more confidence and faith that our eternal victory on such a day six years ago will remain a shining proof that our steadfast struggling people, who determined the war in their favor after eight years of fighting, patience, and sacrifice, contrary to all the wagers and plans of the imperialist and Zionist circles, will remain victorious and capable of confronting and foiling all challenges and plots and overcoming all the hardships that block their upward surge. They possess the conditions and means of victory. Their vitality, struggle power, and unity and the genius, vitality, and influence of their leadership solidly guarantee their lasting power and victory.

Greetings to comrade leader Saddam Husayn, hero of victory and liberation.

Greetings to every Iraqi who contributed to that glorious national and pan-Arab victory.

Greetings to our righteous martyrs.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Addresses Ministers

JN1508124594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said: From the time of Babylon and after the rise of Islam, our forefathers have set conditions and accorded a special status for distinguished performance and efforts so as to urge people to embrace the traits of others who make great sacrifices for the homeland and the nation and to establish firmly the values of determination, jihad, and faith.

His excellency added: We notice that God placed the believers in different ranks. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, and the caliphs who succeeded him did the same. The idle and the strugglers have never been treated equally; the same goes for those who take up their swords and those who do not; and those who use their pens to defend the march and others who do not use their pens.

His excellency added: Before and during the glorious al-Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and during the immortal Mother

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

of Battles, we always made a distinction between mere words and great actions that add new values.

His excellency the leader president made these remarks when he chaired the 14th session of the Council of Ministers.

His excellency addressed the ministers: For these great values to be established firmly in the hearts of men, they must be part of our laws, measures, actions, and even in our daily and personal contact with the people whom we reward for having contributed to this march.

In its 14th session, the Council of Ministers discussed items on its agenda, which included guidelines for distributing and selling residential land, rates for the working hours of subcontractors, health care programs, as well as some other organizational issues. The Council of Ministers adopted the necessary decisions on these issues.

President Demands Petitions in Classical Arabic

JN1208122694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Aug 94p 4

[Text] The presidential office yesterday issued a circular concerning the petitions citizens submit to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him. The following is text of the circular:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

And this is a clear Arab tongue. [Koranic verse]

Citizens often submit petitions to the leader president, may God preserve and protect him, for his kind consideration.

In view of the sacredness and sublime status of Arabic, the language of the Holy Koran; and in order to keep it sound, protect it from weakness and corruption, and thus preserve its eloquence, richness, and power of expressing ideas accurately, it has been decided that any petition submitted to his excellency shall be written in classical Arabic, with high style and fluency of expression. It is also preferred that the petition include quotations from the Holy Koran, or other holy books in the case of non-Muslims, relating to the subject of the petition. The body of the petition should also include well-known Arabic sayings and proverbs.

Any petition that does not conform to these conditions will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant without any action on it being taken.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, dated 4 August 1994.

RCC Decrees on Sentences Reported in Press

Possession of Stolen Goods

JN1208125994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] AL-THAWRAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decreed that anyone found possessing, hiding, using, or disposing in any way of items that have been obtained through a crime while fully aware of this fact shall be punishable by a life sentence. The punishment shall be imprisonment if the method by which the items have been obtained is considered an offense. The following is the text of the decree:

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Anyone found possessing, hiding, or using items obtained through a crime or disposes of such items in any way while fully aware of this fact shall be punishable by a life sentence. The punishment shall be imprisonment if the method by which those items have been obtained is considered an offense.

Second: Anyone found in possession of an item which has been obtained through a crime or an offense under circumstances which led them believe that it came from an illegal source shall be punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than three years.

Third: The perpetrator of the crime provided in the "First" and "Second" clauses of this decree shall be exempted from punishment if they immediately inform the public authorities about the criminal from whom the items were obtained and before those authorities have begun the search and inquiry about the criminals.

Fourth: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Death, Amputation Sentences

JN1208123894 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree as follows: If in the case of a crime punishable by execution, the court sees that the circumstances of the crime or the criminal do not call for leniency, it may issue the death sentence against anyone who, at the time of the perpetration of the crime, is over 18 and less than 20 years of age.

The Revolution Command Council has also issued a decree on crimes punishable by amputation of the hand or the foot as penal crimes.

The decree stipulates that if a criminal court issues a sentence for the amputation of a hand or a foot, it should send the file on the case to the chief public prosecutor's office within 10 days after issuing the sentence. The chief public prosecutor shall thoroughly examine it and submit his observations and demands to the Court of Cassation within 15 days for discreet consideration of the case. The person sentenced to amputation shall be remanded at the Adults Reform Directorate until the time of the sentence is carried

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

out. The amputation sentence shall be carried out at a general hospital to be determined by the Health Ministry in Baghdad or any other governorate in the presence of the execution commission, which shall consist of a judge, a member of the public prosecution, and representatives of the Interior and Labor and Social Affairs Ministries. An amputation sentence against a pregnant woman shall be deferred until the lapse of four months after giving birth.

Absentee-Owned Property

JN1408135294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] AL-THAWRAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree banning for any reason whatsoever the transfer of ownership of real estate belonging to any Iraqi who has been out of the country for two years without returning. However, if the real estate is leased, the tenant shall deposit the rent in the account of the Finance Ministry, which will transfer these sums to the Social Mutual Fund for distribution among deserving persons according to the guidelines issued in this regard. The finance minister shall issue the necessary guidelines to facilitate the implementation of this decree.

The decree, which will go into effect as of the date of its publication in the official gazette, excludes those who left Iraq on official duty, for study, or for employment with the approval of official quarters.

Vehicle, Machinery Smugglers

JN1408093994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 4

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 95 dated 27 July 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC];

Decree No. 95, dated 18 Safar 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 27 July 1994;

Decree: Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Anyone who smuggles a car, truck, or machine used for purposes of drilling or capping or any similar purpose outside Iraq or to a hostile party shall be sentenced to death.

2. This decree shall be implemented as of the date it is published in the official gazette, and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Official Cited on Implementation of Power Projects

JN1408121294 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 14, INA—The Power Projects Company of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has recently implemented three power projects in the country, director general of the company, Dr. Walid Ilyas told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

These projects include a power transformation station in al-Basrah, on Attra [as received]-high-tension electrical network in al-Ghammas sub-district in al-Qadisiyah province and a similar network in al-Yusifiyah district in the outskirt of Baghdad.

The power station in east of al-Basrah was set up to supply residential quarters in al-Basrah province with electricity, Dr. Ilyas said.

The whole station has been built by Iraqi technicians depending on locally-produced spare-parts, cables, and equipment. The station has been linked to the national grid through two phases of a total length of two kilometres.

The total of the station is 70 million dinars. If the station was set up by foreign firms it would cost millions of dollars, Dr. Ilyas went on to say.

In al-Ghammas sub-district, the power projects company has set up recently an attra [as received] high-tension power network to supply residential quarters in the area with electricity.

Also the network would supply agricultural fields in the sub-district with electricity in order to operate irrigational machines.

The network is of 42.5 kms length and consists of 136 large electrical towers.

The project was executed by Iraqi cadres relying on locally-produced cables and equipment, director general of the company said.

The total cost of the project is 33 million Iraqi dinars while it would cost 3 million dollars if it was executed by a foreign company, he added. The project was executed in a record time of 12 months.

The company has also implemented a new power network to operate one of the big petro-chemical factories in the country and other industrial projects. The network was extended for al-Yusifiyah power station, south of Baghdad.

The total length of the network is 31 kms and it consists of 107 big electrical towers. The project was executed by Iraqi technicians of the power projects company in cooperation with technicians from other Iraqi establishments.

The project would cost more than 2 million dollars if it was executed by foreign companies. The project has been commissioned during July, 1994.

Minister Said Replaced After Reporting Inflation

NC1508154294 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 15 (AFP)—Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj has been removed from his post and appointed minister without portfolio after his department

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

reported that inflation had reached 24,000 percent, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday [15 August].

The Cyprus-based weekly said Faraj, a Kurd, was dismissed last week but did not say who had replaced him.

Iraq's economy has been crippled by the UN oil and trade embargo imposed after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The dollar currently buys more than 600 dinars on the black market, even though at the official exchange rate one dinar is still worth 3.2 dollars.

President Saddam Husayn, who is also prime minister, in June played down inflation, saying it was "temporary and artificial" because Iraq's oil reserves were "intact".

Iraq has the world's second biggest reserves, after Saudi Arabia.

UK Delegation Brokers Inter-Kurd Peace Deal

LD1508192394 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1916 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By James Hardy, political editor, PA News]

[Text] A high-level British delegation today claimed credit for brokering a deal aimed at ending violence between warring Kurdish factions in Iraq.

Deputies to the Kurdish National Assembly passed two motions calling for a halt to fighting between the two main parties who until recently were allies in the struggle against Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn. Leaders of the parties publicly accepted the demands and pledged to work for their implementation.

The breakthrough followed talks with a British parliamentary delegation made up of shadow overseas development minister Tom Clarke, Baroness Cox and Lord Averbury.

The delegation had played a "crucial" role in progress towards a settlement, Mr. Clarke said in a statement. "The end of feuding and demilitarisation are very much in sight," he added. "After the decision, at the first private meeting given by the two leaders, we were assured that they had the political influence to insist that all of the decisions are carried out. Apart from achieving a high prospect of peace, this decision makes it easier for the delivery of essential development aid and assistance which, from my visit, I can see Kurdistan desperately needs."

Mr. Clarke said a tour of villages in the Kurdish part of northern Iraq showed how shortages were hitting the civilian population. He called for a clear strategic approach by the international community to the supply of aid.

Leaders Support Efforts

NC1508174294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Aug 94

["Text" of "joint announcement" by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani and Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani to the Kurdish people following an extraordinary meeting of the Kurdistan National Assembly on 15 August; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] At the request of the Kurdistan National Assembly, we attended the parliament meeting held today, 15 August. The agenda of the meeting, a decision on which was made on 25 July 1994, was reviewed and the statement drafted by the two parliamentary delegations that recently visited the cities of Qal'at Dizah and Halabjah was read. After a discussion and an exchange of views, we announce to the masses of the Kurdistan people that we support all the points contained in the aforementioned agenda and statement. We have pledged before the Kurdistan National Council to do our utmost to remedy all the obstacles and problems facing the implementation of the above-mentioned agenda and statement.

Signed: Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader. 15 August 1994.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Rabin Suspends Talks on Release of Palestinians

TA1508152894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he has ordered discussions on the release of Palestinian detainees be suspended until the PLO stops murdering collaborators with Israel. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Fatah Hawks murdered 11 Palestinian collaborators during interrogation in recent months. Mr. Rabin noted that Israel has so far spent 120 million shekels to rehabilitate collaborators. In response to a query by Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan, who quoted Hanan 'Ashrawi on the attitude of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in carrying out detentions in Dhannabah, the prime minister said 'Ashrawi can talk as much as she likes, nobody is listening anyway.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 15 August carries a similar report by Tamara Salem which adds that Rabin told the Knesset committee that "Israel holds the PLO and the Palestinian Authority responsible for security and public order in the regions under their control." In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "We will continue the talks with the Palestinians, but the implementation of their decisions will, to a large extent, depend on the extent to which the Palestinian Authority does its part in terms of their security personnel making serious efforts to prevent terrorism."]

Rabin To Pressure 'Arafat on Covenant, Terrorism

TA1608103094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Aug 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to exert pressure on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to force him to take practical steps against terrorism in the Gaza Strip and to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] in order to abrogate the clauses calling for Israel's destruction in the Palestinian Covenant.

Rabin has considered suspending the implementation of the next stages of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] if the Palestinian Covenant is not revoked. The prime minister reacted furiously to statements made by Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department, on the need for Israel's elimination. After Qaddumi denied the remarks attributed to him, Rabin said that "this rectification does not improve things much."

Yesterday, responding to correspondents' questions on Qaddumi's remarks, the prime minister said that "it was a grave statement that will lead us to take steps in the future, prior to the implemention of the later stages of the DOP."

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that "now, Rabin is not even thinking" about implementing the next stages of the arrangement, such as holding elections in the territories and pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of Palestinian population centers in the West Bank.

Yesterday, Foreign Ministry officials reacted positively to the arrest of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip by the Palestinian police and said it was an important step toward the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

'Terrorist Squad' Captured; 8 PFLP Members Detained

TA1308165694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says that most members of the terrorist squad that was involved in yesterday's clash in East Jerusalem have been captured. Some of them, Shahal said, had been involved in murdering Jews. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that in the Ramallah area, eight members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have been detained in recent days. Some of them are Bi'r Zayt University students.

Peres on Cairo Talks, al-Sa'ih Remarks, Carlos Arrest

TA1608122994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Shmu'el Tal on news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with party affairs correspondents on 16 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is leaving for Cairo tomorrow to discuss early empowerment and other issues with the Palestinian delegation. Peres told the assembled correspondents that early empowerment would not be moved up and would definitely not be conditional on the abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant clauses calling for Israel's destruction.

As for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Sa'ih's remarks on the above, the foreign minister said Israel was not negotiating with al-Sa'ih.

[Peres] We did not reach an agreement with al-Sa'ih. We reached an agreement with Yasir 'Arafat and we expect him to honor everything he signed. In my opinion, we should demand that 'Arafat uphold all his commitments.

[Tal] The foreign minister said that 'Arafat was not being presented with a timetable, he merely had to carry out his commitments. We asked Peres whether the arrest of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza indeed constituted a bona fide attempt to resolve the problem of terrorism there or was just a token gesture.

[Peres] I assume that this time the Palestinian Authority realizes that mere appearances will not suffice. It must take serious and comprehensive action. The problem is not with isolated steps but rather with the need to show determination in tracking down the murderers and bringing them to justice.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

In my opinion, the present scenario calls for us to firmly demand that the PLO fulfill its role, and only then to draw conclusions.

[Tal] There are penalty clauses in every agreement. Does our agreement also contain such clauses?

[Peres] Certainly, if either of the signatories to the agreement fail to uphold a certain clause then that provision ceases to exist. But I do not want to constantly threaten. I am not evading the issue, but I do not like to voice public threats in all directions. This is unnecessary. We must employ the requisite degree of influence on the PLO institutions in order to ensure that they fulfill the agreement to the letter.

[Tal] As for the arrest of arch-terrorist Carlos, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, normally reticent and diplomatic in his manner, was very emphatic about how to deal with Carlos.

[Peres] I would like to see him spend the rest of his life in prison or even worse. He murdered people and caused tremendous damage. I am very pleased that he was arrested and I have the highest regard for the way the French secret service caught him.

[Tal] What are the chances of him being imprisoned in France? Is there any danger that he might be released in the framework of some deal?

[Peres] I do not see anyone asking for him. He has turned his back on everyone and all have deserted him.

Peres To Visit Egypt 17 Aug for Mubarak, PLO Talks

NC1608064094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will arrive in Alexandria tomorrow, Wednesday, on a visit during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The paper says in today's edition that Peres and Mubarak will discuss the latest developments of the peace process. Peres will also lead the Israeli side to the meeting of the steering committee of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The Palestinian side will be led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority.

AL-AHRAM says that it was decided to move tomorrow's meeting of the committee from Cairo to Alexandria.

Beilin on Aid, Gaza's Economic Development

TA1208110294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 12 Aug 94 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Sever Plotzker; place and date not given—first paragraph is YEDI'OT AHARONOT introduction]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin was one of the authors of the proposal not to transfer the World Bank's aid funds directly to the Palestinian Authority but to a UN mechanism headed by Terje Rod Larsen, the coordinator of UN activities in the territories. He held frequent meetings with Larsen, 'Arafat and his senior aides, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, and U.S. State Department officials who had "a political and natural aversion to anything that even smelled of the United Nations." This week, all the incumbent parties gave their consent (on a temporary and experimental basis) to this proposal. 'Arafat announced it publicly, while the World Bank opened a branch in Gaza. In their meeting on Wednesday at the Erez checkpoint, 'Arafat and Rabin did not have much left to discuss with regard to the modalities for the transfer of aid since the problem had been solved earlier.

[Beilin] The donor countries were not prepared to twist their norms and adapt them to the complex Palestinian reality, while the Palestinians were not prepared to adhere to the norms of transparency and accountability. Some people suggested to the donor countries to forego their demands. I thought that a different solution could be found that would satisfy everybody.

[Plotzker] Did you think that the main economic problem of the Palestinian self-rule would not be the lack of aid but the lack of a mechanism able to receive and handle the aid?

[Beilin] Yes, I feared as much. Most developing countries have a hard time receiving and digesting the aid extended to them, and they squander most of the aid they get.

[Plotzker] Why should we get involved in the argument between the donor countries and 'Arafat?

[Beilin] It is only natural that Israel should be worried when the economic situation in Gaza deteriorates or, at least, does not improve. We want Gaza to prosper, and an economic crisis worries us.

[Plotzker] Israel objected in the past to the very existence of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency]. What happened to make us change our minds?

[Beilin] You are talking about a prehistoric period, prior to the Oslo agreements. The UN secretary general recently instructed UNRWA's entire foreign personnel to move to Gaza, and we approve of this move. We are talking about 250 officials, most of them skilled professionals of Palestinian origin, who will be forced to leave a cushy life in Vienna and live in the Gaza Strip or its vicinity. UNRWA is the largest employer in the Gaza Strip. When Larsen starts coordinating it, its activities will expand and broaden.

[Plotzker] Will UNRWA play the same role in Gaza that the Civil Administration did?

[Beilin] Such an analogy is not totally unfounded, although I would use other similes. I would say that the United Nations will be the central mechanism and address for the foreign aid to Gaza. Such a central address had not existed so far. After all, the money was there, and the countries were eagerly waiting to spend it.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Plotzker] Why was the PLO unable to set up the administrative mechanism to handle the aid that the donor countries demanded?

[Beilin] There were the typical "growing pains" of reverting from a national liberation organization to an independent civilian government, and there were internal Palestinian disputes.

[Plotzker] Why have the Palestinians not started to collect taxes in the self-rule areas?

[Beilin] They are starting now. I suppose they were reluctant to appear in the hated role of tax collectors in the territories, and preferred that Israel did the dirty work for them. We made it crystal-clear to them that we would not do that. The Palestinians realize that they must take their economic future into their own hands, among other things, by collecting taxes.

[Plotzker] Do you see an economic future for the autonomy?

[Beilin] I will not say that I see a Singapore emerging in the Gaza Strip any time soon. However, the Palestinian economy may very well develop rapidly. They must follow the example of Cyprus and Malta. They must develop a business sector and attract investors.

[Plotzker] Investors? In Gaza and Jericho?

[Beilin] Investors will come once the political, social, security, and legal situation there becomes clear and stable.

[Plotzker] How would you define the current regime in the autonomy? Is it a PLO military government? Is it a police state?

[Beilin] Such definitions are untrue and idiotic. What the autonomy has at the moment is an authoritarian "presidential" regime. The democratic modalities of this regime are a result of the proximity to Israel and of Israeli norms. 'Arafat is one of the Arab leaders that is most exposed to the West. I meet many highly- educated Palestinian field operators in their 40's who are very creative and Western-oriented. They are democratic-minded and they constitute the skeleton of the new regime.

[Plotzker] The Palestinians fear that we will sacrifice the economic agreements with them on the altar of the rapprochement with Jordan. Are their fears justified?

[Beilin] No. From the economic point of view, the territory of Israel under the British Mandate (we, the Palestinians, and Jordan) constitutes a single economic zone, with Israel (whose economy is much stronger than that of its neighbors) at its center. This is not a simple structure because it entails friction and rivalry. We made clear in the economic negotiations with Jordan that in the absence of a total abrogation of the Arab boycott there will be no agreement, although there may be practical cooperation in specific projects in Jordan and in the autonomy.

[Plotzker] Do you see many Israelis investing in Gaza?

[Beilin] Yes, definitely. Israelis will be the greatest investors in Gaza. They are already there, hanging around in the Gaza Strip, keeping up existing production lines of textile and food products, and building new ones. The Israelis know the area and the working methods and they can offer access to the Israeli market which is the natural destination for Gaza's exports.

[Plotzker] And what does the PLO think about it?

[Beilin] Opinions vary. 'Arafat welcomes Israelis who are prepared to invest in Gaza, while others are afraid of Israeli economic colonialism. They claim that Israeli investments "will exploit cheap labor." Others suggest that we lower our profile and pretend to be multinational companies. 'Arafat's position is that it is better to work for the Israelis in Gaza than to work for them in Israel, and that it is definitely better to work and make a living than to live on welfare and handouts. This is a realistic position, and the realists will have the upper hand. [end Beilin]

Dr. Beilin continues to believe in the winning power of realism. This week, almost one year after the Oslo agreements, I asked him whether this is how he saw and envisioned the situation in August 1993. "Yes," he said. What happened between Israel and its neighbors in the past year largely resembles what he thought would happen. He is not surprised, and if he is, it is only for the better.

IDF 'Secretly' Reduces Deployment in West Bank

TA1208114194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Roni Sofer]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intends to cut down the number of standing army troops in Judaea and Samaria by 25 percent in view of the Army's recent budgetary difficulties. The significant cut is being done secretly to, among other things, avoid settlers' criticism of the army.

The chief of staff ordered the reduction. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq made the decision in view of the high cost of maintaining standing army troops in Judaea and Samaria after the increase in standing army companies because of the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs on 25 February and the recent lethal terror attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The chief of staff decided to cut down the number of troops there after consulting the commander of the Central Command, the commander of the IDF units in Judaea and Samaria, and logistics officers.

Dozens of standing army companies are deployed in Judaea and Samaria today. The forces that will leave the territories will be able to resume training and routine security activity along the borders.

Netanyahu on Elections; Qatzav on 'Revoking' Accords

TA1208113294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu commented on statements made by Likud officials regarding the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

the conceivable steps a future Likud government, if elected, might take with regard to halting such a pullback.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] All the contacts currently taking place are extremely dangerous. This government is in a rush to reach an agreement at any cost. Today, they claim to insist on a five-year withdrawal period, while before they said they would demand eight years. Now they do not want to demarcate the withdrawal lines. After all, it is manifestly clear that with this government we are talking about a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. That is what is on the agenda. The question now is very simple. If the prime minister has accepted the principle of putting the issue to a public vote, let us both let the people decide and bow to their verdict. I think that such a decision must be reached through new elections. This cannot be brought before the public in some sort of make-believe referendum. We have never conducted a national referendum although legislation to this effect could be pushed through with an overwhelming majority. There is one way to have a real referendum, however, and that is by holding new elections. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 12 August reports that "Moshe Qatzav, the chairman of the Likud Knesset faction today said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad should know that if the Likud regains power, it will not honor all the agreements signed by the present government." In a recorded passage, Qatzav says: "If, God willing, we regain power, we will not give up the Golan Heights. And, if there any agreements to this effect, the Syrian authorities should realize that these understandings will not obligate us and we will definitely take steps to revoke them."]

Likud's Qatzav: Syria Offered Full Withdrawal Plan

TA1508131794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, head of the Likud caucus, claims that he has learned that the Israeli Government has already made offers to the Syrian president which mention an Israeli readiness to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights. According to him, the only remaining disputed issue is the timing of normalization.

Syria demands that normalization steps be taken only after the withdrawal is completed, while Israel demands that they start immediately after the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal. Moshe Qatzav demands that the prime minister reveal the limits of the withdrawal from the Golan and thus refute the claims that he is hiding the truth from the public and the Knesset.

Likud Comments on Hamas 'Terrorists' in Gaza

TA1508132694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Hanan Schlein]

[Text] Presently, there are 50 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives in the territories, 20 of which reside in the Gaza Strip. This was reported by Palestinian sources last night. They added that 15 Hamas fugitives have taken refugee in Jericho, inside the Palestinian Authority area. The sources added that the fugitives travel from Judaea and Samaria to the Gaza Strip and back without any difficulty.

According to the sources, the fugitives hiding in Gaza constitute the nucleus of the operational command of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads, including those operating in Judaea and Samaria. They added that the Hamas men are in possession of arms which they move from place to place with the help of people who collaborate with them.

[A 200-word report by Menahem Rahat on the same page of the 15 August MA'ARIV issue adds: "The Likud demands that the prime minister allow the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to conduct hot pursuit after the terrorists in Gaza. 'Rabin's forgiving policy toward the Palestinian terror has turned Gaza into a refuge for terrorists and the only place in the world where murderers of Jews are under Israeli auspices,' the Likud spokesman said."]

Ben-Eli'ezer on Jordanian Border, PLO Against Hamas

TA1508104594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said today that if the PLO really wants to impose its authority on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], it could do so without difficulty. Ben-Eli'ezer, who is a retired general, was speaking to a Qol Yisra'el reporter during a tour of the north.

On another matter, the minister said he believes the border crossing point between Israel and Jordan in the 'Arava will be open to Israeli and Jordanian citizens within three months.

Beni Kohen Appointed Rabin's Media Adviser

TA1508152394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 94 p A12

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] Beni Kohen was appointed yesterday the prime minister's media adviser. Kohen will be a spokesman on domestic affairs that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin deals with such as parties affairs, economy, planning and construction, interior and religious issues, and so on.

Kohen, a 42-year-old lawyer, served as the Tel Aviv Municipality spokesman, and was a correspondent and an editor on cable television.

Number of Palestinian Work Permits Increased

TA1408171094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The government has decided to increase the number of licenses for Palestinian workers in Israel to the tune of

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

63,750. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon has learned from the Employment Service that the workers will be geared to the agricultural, industrial, and health sectors. The Employment Service also reported that 2,000 out of the 5,000 licenses issued by the government for Gaza Strip construction workers last week will be transferred to Judaea and Samaria workers.

According to Employment Service figures Israeli employers have so far made use of 56,000 licenses out of approximately 60,000 that were available.

Officials Satisfied With Capture of 'Terrorist' Carlos

TA1508181594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The defense establishment today expressed satisfaction with the capture of Carlos and hoped the action would encourage international cooperation in the struggle against terrorism.

Defense sources, however, told our correspondent Alon Ben-David that although Carlos cooperated with Palestinian terrorist organizations, Israel does not have clear-cut evidence linking Carlos with attacks perpetrated against it. Carlos has worked with the terrorist organizations of George Habash, Wadi'a Haddad, and Japan's Red Army. He apparently operated in Syria in recent year.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 15 August quotes Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as saying on hearing the news of Carlos' capture: "I am pleased about the detention of anybody who has in the past or is now involved in international terrorism."]

Government Agrees To Train Argentine Rescue Units

TA1508104994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Israel has agreed to the request of Argentina's President Carlos Menem to train his country's rescue units, after serious shortcomings were cited by Israel in the operation following the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army has reached conclusions on its own performance in the Buenos Aires operation. The army review indicates it must be able to organize faster in responding to special operations. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to store equipment in advance to cut down the time necessary to organize.

Company Signs Deal With Jordanian, Palestinian Firms

TA1508130594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Rachel Neiman]

[Text] Africa Israel, Bank Le'umi's real estate, tourism and insurance subsidiary, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with a consortium of Jordanian and Palestinian companies.

The signing for the first trilateral joint venture was held at Tel Aviv's Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, which is operated by Africa Israel.

Jordanian businessman Da'ud Kuttab, head of investment group Triangle International, said the group was "trying to make the peace machine active" through operation of this "golden-triangle."

The new company, to be registered in another country, will initially deal with the development of tourism projects in Jordan and the Palestinian autonomous areas.

The group is already examining possible hotel and tourism centers in al-'Aqabah, Petra, the northern Dead Sea area and other locations in Jordan.

Africa Israel is conducting a survey to determine how many Holiday Inns it should build in the al-'Aqabah-Elat region.

Chairmanship of the venture will be a bi-annual rotation between the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian representatives—with the first chairman being from Africa Israel.

The group intends to expand activity into other areas, particularly real estate—with construction of office and industrial parks a possibility.

Kuttab also mentioned the establishment of a specialized paint factory in eastern Jerusalem, pending licensing from Spanish patent- holders.

Contact between the Africa Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian group was initiated a year ago.

Kuttab kept the authorities informed of the new connection "so as no to upset or create any confusion in the peace process."

King Husayn, he added, supported the activities of the private sector. "If the private sector operates effectively, particularly in tourism, the peace effort will succeed," he said.

Commentary on Iraqi Contacts, U.S. Policy on Iraq

TA1508150094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT) in Hebrew 15 Aug 94 p 5

[Commentary by Dani Leshem: "Yes, Iraq"]

[Text] The speculation about Iraqi contacts with Israel are not particularly new. Iraqi feelers toward Israel began in the first half of 1993 when Barzan al-Tikriti, the Iraqi presidents' political adviser and confidant [name and title as published], who is also Saddam Husayn's stepbrother, spoke in an especially conciliatory tone towards Israel in an interview to an Arabic newspaper published in London. At the same time, Yasir 'Arafat returned from Baghdad declaring that Saddam

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

advised him "to exert pressure to make sure the peace talks with Israel continue." Later, reports and rumors circulated in the West about attempted mediation efforts between Iraq and Israel via various intermediaries and about meetings between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, as well as between Barzan al- Tikriti and Israeli officials. It can be assumed that these same Iraqis are involved in the current contacts or feelers with Israel.

One of the interesting things al-Tikriti said in the that interview last year was that "if the Arabs decide to fight Israel, we will not dispatch our forces immediately, but we will study the situation and consult with the representatives of the people and the party in order to receive their approval to dispatch forces..." In response to a question whether Arab problems will no longer interest Iraq, he said: "Do you want us to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians, as we were in the past?" He made it clear that "Iraq is not a party to the Palestinian problem....If the Palestinians and the Arab states directly involved in the conflict resolve their problem with Israel, we will welcome it (the solution) and accept it.

These remarks are especially interesting in the present context despite the angry statement by the Iraqi information minister a few days ago, in response to Jordan's proposal to include Iraq in the multilateral talks with Israel, and despite the denial of contacts with Israel.

Why does the U.S. Administration oppose any contacts between Israel and Iraq while countries like Egypt, Turkey, and France have already in fact renewed their links with Baghdad within a restricted framework without hearing sharp opposition to their moves? I do not recall such sharp displeasure when an agreement was reached between Iraq and the French Foreign Ministry to resume restricted diplomatic relations and to open an Iraqi interests office inside the Moroccan Embassy in Paris.

It appears to me that U.S. foreign policy is based on a too large dose of improvisation, even if some of it is successful. In my view, it is wrong to treat rulers like Saddam Husayn and Qadhdhafi as arch devils, while legitimizing and offering consideration and forgiveness to Hafiz al-Asad, as the U.S. Administration does. The administration's political aims can be appreciated, but we should recall that there is no difference in principle between these three regional brutes. This is even truer when we study the U.S. attitude toward Iraq compared to Iran, since the U.S. policy to isolate Iran was and still is very restricted in scope. The U.S. talks with North Korea, a similar hoodlum in a different region, also cast a somewhat dubious light on the administration's policy toward Iraq and Libya.

First Vatican Ambassador Presents Credentials

TA1608084294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] The Vatican's first ambassador to Israel presented his credentials to President 'Ezer Weizman this morning. President Weizman welcomed the appointment, although he noted that it had come a bit late. He said that negotiations on a permanent arrangement for the holy places would be held in the future; however, Weizman asserted, one should remember that the Jews are sitting in Jerusalem.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that although the Vatican would have no priority over other religious denominations in Jerusalem, Israel would consult with it during the negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

Cardinal Andre di Montezemolo Lanza, the new ambassador from the Vatican, told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that the Vatican would have something to say with regard to any arrangement on the division of Jerusalem's holy sites. His appointment as ambassador, he stressed, was an important moment and would make a positive contribution to Israel's relations with the Holy See.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

King Addresses Officers on Jerusalem, Peace

JN1508191694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Address by King Husayn to the officers of Jordan's 5th Royal Armored Division; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] This Arab Army is the inheritor of the Great Arab Revolt army and the carrier of its banner. This country, which is in the heart of the large homeland, is the carrier and trustee of the message of the revolution. This people and this one community, from various origins, depicted, among other things, the picture of the muhajidin and ansar [reference to Palestinian emigrants and Jordanian supporters] in the homeland of free and righteous men. It is the destination of all Arabs and oasis of security and peace for free Arabs all the time.

This army and this people have always made sacrifices and placed their nation above all. They have always been concerned to fulfill their duty within their utmost. Each house, each family, each tribe, and each tribe have never hesitated to offer heroes, men, and martyrs all the time. It is God's will that we always live in the most dangerous positions.

Speaking about Jerusalem and its position in our heart, mind, and conscience, we ask: What about Jerusalem? We remember that the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, who achieved Arab awakening, is buried next to al-Aqsa Mosque. We also remember that he sacrificed himself and all the things of life for the sake of the Palestinians, their cause, and their right to their national soil. These matters are known for all.

In the 1940's, the heroes of this army in Jerusalem and elsewhere, they were the ones who saved the West Bank. If we ask again: What is our relationship with Jerusalem? It is eternal, because it is always in our hearts. The blood, martyrs, and righteous ones fell on the land of Jerusalem and Palestine. We will continue to remember as long as we live. It is so for us and for the coming generations. They are stars in the sky of this homeland as long as life goes on. [chants and applause]

Had it not been for Jordan and what it has offered, as a duty and an honor, there would not have been an issue called the Jerusalem issue. No matter how things will develop from now until the issue as a whole and the status of Jerusalem in particular are resolved in a just and honorable manner, we do not claim sovereignty over Jerusalem, or want it to be part of our responsibility, except with regard to what we feel to be our duty toward it. We call for religious jurisdiction against the backdrop of Caliph 'Umar's Convention and the sovereignty of the entire Islamic nation over its holy places. We want the holy city and the holy places to be for believers in God almighty, and to be above politics and all considerations. Regarding the occupied territory, UN Security Council Resolution 242, which has been adopted as the basis in accordance with international legitimacy, stipulates its return to its owners. The brothers—Palestinians and Arabs—wished the Palestinians themselves to address their issue and the question of their occupied territory. We support them to the best of our ability.

The memories of hundreds of young men who fell, those righteous martyrs, whom everyone of us wish to join one day, are from the school of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, who himself was (?buried) in the al-Aqsa Mosque. Martyrs have fallen throughout the years, everywhere. God be praised, there is nothing that prevents us from keeping our heads high, with the help of God [applause].

Peace in itself is a noble objective and an end sought by all of mankind. We have worked and are working for a just, honorable, and durable peace. We want everyone to enjoy the fruits of peace. The beginnings started with the recent world earthquake. Then, there was the Gulf crisis and the orientation toward resolving problems in this part of the world. Afterward, the Madrid conference was held. Before Madrid, a grand national meeting was held, in which we discussed matters and chose to join the peace process. Afterward, we offered an umbrella without which it was apparently difficult or impossible for the concerned Palestinians to exercise their right to represent themselves regarding their territory and right to their national soil. This is what they have insisted on since the 1974 Rabat summit. At that time, Jerusalem, the holy places, and religious trusts were left for us. Since then, we have been performing this duty, which is an honor.

Then came the surprise of the brother Palestinians' decision to go it alone and take responsibility for their own affairs, apart from us. Looking further back, Egypt—our big sister that made undeniable sacrifices and suffered a good deal—also opted for peace and concluded a peace treaty. I think that in Madrid we took off from the same starting point—Lebanese, Syrians, Jordanians, and Palestinians. The Palestinians, represented by their sole and legitimate spokesman the PLO, the idiom that they and all the Arabs insisted on at the Rabat summit, took that road. We agreed among ourselves on the agenda soon after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington. We had held the issue on hold, pending progress on the Palestinian track. Had things progressed smoothly, the agenda would have been taken up then. Interest, both here in the region and beyond, shifted to other trends. Our position remained firm and will remain so. Thanks be to God, our heads are held high. We have taken so much and we will continue to hold out.

We, therefore, are determined to uphold our national unity. We are determined to do all in our power to make sure that our country progresses, using the talents of all its children in a new atmosphere, with hitherto unavailable opportunities waiting to be seized. If at any time in the future, any human being should choose another course, he is most welcome to do as he wishes.

We are still reeling from the effects of the Gulf crisis. Our position then will be seen by future generations as one of honor and courage. We braced and mobilized ourselves and gave notice that we would not stand for anyone violating our land or skies. We know our limitations, but if we came under attack, we would have succeeded, regardless of the outcome.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

We developed a sense of belonging to this country and took pride in that affiliation, as well as in shura, democracy, human rights, freedom of expression. Such rights must be enjoyed by every Arab individual. Throughout the Arab world, the individual is demoralized and has no real worth. He may be alive, but he cannot express himself. Thanks be to God, the picture here, God willing, will always be different, and this country will always be a model. [chants]

Thanks be to God, we mobilized, prepared ourselves, and stood on our feet. Since then, we gradually consumed the very little we had on the level of the country and on the level of the Armed Forces, apart from the men with their loyalty, faith, and sacrifice. And with the little we had, we had to search for a different picture and a new situation so that the men could fulfill their duty in all circumstances as best as they could, in terms of weapons, reorganization, and providing all that it takes to make them equal to the challenges, no matter where they come from. I am aware of all this and of all its dimensions. I know that I have young men in this country in which one can take great pride. [chants]

The march is independent of any individual or group of individuals. Success or failure, God forbid, will reflect on all of us. You are all part of this march. We have never hidden anything from each other. We have always explained things as they are, and with all their dimensions, to the people. Our decisions are always collective and are based on awareness, sincerity, and loyalty.

We have been patient and borne burdens and responsibilities. It seems some people think problems can be sorted out at the expense of this country. Why should problems be sorted out at its expense? It has given and offered more sacrifices than any other. This country must live with what it represents, with its individuals, society, people, and one family; with its steadfastness, and firm adherence to rights, principles, and land. It must thrive and be a model to everybody.

Peace, do we fear peace? No, we do not. We do not fear it because we know ourselves, our potentials, our resources, and our abilities. If it is a matter of analogy, see what we achieved with the very little we had in comparison with what the others have. We should feel very proud and confident that we will achieve even more and more in the future, God willing.

The negotiations started, and we reached a point in which so many things hinged on Husayn's meeting with his counterpart, in terms of responsibility on the Israeli side. If you meet, so many issues will be resolved. People meet. Negotiations were approved in a national conference before the Madrid conference and up to now. So, we said if this is the whole issue, then do not consider it a big issue. We are not afraid of meeting men. We moved, we met, we will meet, and we insist on our rights and on the need to address every single issue on the agenda which we have talked about. And, we proceed on the path of resolving all these problems in a manner that satisfies our future generations. We take pride in the awareness of all the people. We take pride, and I personally take pride in my affiliation. And I put my life on the line for you. [chants and applause]

Life is worthwhile and meaningful to the extent that a human being does his duty, which is a major duty, toward his family, his people, and his beloved ones, among whom he has lived, and for whom he lives throughout his life.

Indeed, it is a longtime concern. But what will we be leaving behind? We will only be leaving the life of anxiety, instability, and uncertainty. If there are other opportunities, let us look for them. Egypt has chosen its own way. Those concerned have chosen their own way. Others are moving in the same direction. Shall we wait? Who supports us? Why should we wait if we have all started from the same point? Shall we sign and then negotiate? No. We will negotiate and then sign. The negotiating process requires that people meet on higher levels to discuss everything and all issues. God willing, matters are proceeding in the right direction.

I mentioned the Jordanian-Palestinian issue because sometimes we are criticized for not raising the issue of repatriation. Jordan is the only party that is raising this issue in terms of people's right to choose between repatriation or compensation in accordance with UN resolutions. Jordan is the only party that raises this issue constantly. However, we should maintain our national unity. This right to choose has not been offered yet. We have gone all this way together, sharing life and sustenance. The is not the time for [word indistinct] each other, differences, or argument. When, later, people are given the chance to choose, whoever decides to be one of us, he is welcome, and whoever chooses another way, may he proceed with the blessings of God.

Jerusalem [words indistinct]. Had not the issue been raised, they would have said that we have forgotten Jerusalem. As scheduled, the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed and negotiated later. But holy places are dear to us all. What has happened is only a recognition of a fact, which started with the martyrdom of Husayn Bin-'Ali, up to the liberation of Jerusalem by the Arab Legion in 1948 and the continued duty toward holy places and our kinsfolk and brothers. [applause]

God be praised, we are neither competing with anybody nor imposing ourselves on anybody. We support our brothers in all that brings welfare. We will support all brothers, especially our Palestinian brothers, to the best of our ability. Our constant appeal for them is for them to be cohesive and reach understanding among themselves and amend their affairs within the framework of the family to which they belong. After it has been proven that coordination in itself is nothing but talking about generalizations, we are ready to discuss any issue separately with them if they so wish. We support them as much as we can.

So, God willing a comprehensive peace will be achieved, because otherwise, peace cannot become a reality. Such a peace will enable the resources of everybody to be diverted to work and building, and at the forefront, are these Armed Forces, the shield that protects hopes and aspirations, the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

faithful, the capable, and the deep-rooted in terms of sacrifices, loyalty, and faithfulness.

I beseech God to help each of us live with a clear conscience all the time and to enable us to provide the opportunities to all young people of this country so that they can give even more on the correct path and to build. [applause and chants]

I have said it before, and I say it once again: We do not fear peace. We are advocates of peace. We [word indistinct] and understand its meanings. [Words indistinct] we will be able to deal with it and build, and score even more achievements than what we had in the past. Anyway, this is our responsibility toward our children, grandchildren, and the generations to come. Our heads will remain high and will bow only to God almighty. [chants and applause]

You always live up to expectations, with your great values, manliness, sacrifices, loyalty, and awareness. God almighty bless you all and help us all follow the path that pleases him. Peace be upon you.

King Receives Cables From Rabin, Peres

JN1208121494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] His majesty the king has received more congratulatory cables on the occasion of his 42d anniversary of accession to the throne. His majesty the king received cables from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco, the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad, the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Qatari crown prince, and the prime minister of Bahrain. His majesty also received cables from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Al-Majali on Peace Talks, Ties With PLO, Syria

NC1608063894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister, and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] My greetings to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-Majali, where are you now in your negotiations with Israel to regain Jordan's rights?

[Al-Majali] The issue is still in its early stages. The important thing is that the Israeli side has acknowledged the basics. This makes the negotiating process easier and it should not take a long time. The basics of the water and border issues have been acknowledged by the two sides in the proper way and they are now dealing with the details.

[Abu-al-Majd] Should we expect a conclusion to these issues within weeks or months? Your Excellency has just said that the basics have been laid down and there is agreement on them. Does this mean that the final signing of a peace agreement with Israel is imminent?

[Al-Majali] I do not agree with those who set specific times for such things. The process might gather momentum or it might be delayed. A snag could arise over a certain point. It is futile to set a time. But I generally believe that the issue will not take a long time.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. There are reports that Israel is discussing with you the development of water resources, while you are insisting on obtaining your share from what is available now. Where are you and the Israelis on this issue?

[Al-Majali] As you said, there are two sides to this issue. The first concerns original water rights and the second deals with how the two sides can cooperate to find new water resources for the region and distribute them. The two issues are inseparable. We cannot talk about the future and about looking for something new if we do not resolve the original issue. Therefore, the two issues are moving in the same direction.

[Abu-al-Majd] But is the Jordanian side still insisting on obtaining its share now and letting the development of new resources come later?

[Al-Majali] First, it must be decided what this share is. These issues require many detailed studies on how shares are to be allocated. The question is not a simple one, such as saying one for this and one for that and so on. It is more complicated. This issue has to be decided. If we know what the original share is, we can move on to other projects later. These are all linked.

[Abu-al-Majd] How much is the original share, approximately?

[Al-Majali] There are several studies, the most famous one being an international study called the Johnson Plan. It allocated specific shares of existing waters in the basin to all concerned parties in the region. But we are now talking with Israel and this is one of the matters to be reviewed.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does the Israeli side understand your views on this plan?

[Al-Majali] We have felt that there has been a very good understanding and response from the Israeli side since the negotiations were moved from Washington to the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] What about the issues of the borders and the occupied territories?

[Al-Majali] Both on the issue of borders and on water rights, too.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Prime Minister, despite reports of a breakthrough soon, the Arab public has seen no clear progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiating tracks. Are you now coordinating with the Syrians? Some say there is a crisis between Jordan and Syria over this issue.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Al-Majali] I absolutely do not believe there is a crisis between Jordan and our brothers in Syria. Our relations have always been good, praise be to God. The good relations will continue. If coordination is decided upon, we are always ready for it. I think the Syrian-Israeli negotiations have not advanced because no meetings were held. I think the current contacts are meant to prepare for such meetings so that they can succeed and produce acceptable results.

[Abu-al-Majd] Meetings between whom, doctor?

[Al-Majali] Between the Syrians and the Israelis; that is, the resumption of bilateral negotiations between them. Adequate preparations must be made, and I believe things are going fine, in a manner in which Syria can regain its basic, firm, and legitimate rights.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will there be an exchange of visits between you and the Syrians soon?

[Al-Majali] There is nothing planned at present, but when an opportunity presents itself, we will not hesitate to take it.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-Majali, after signing the Jordanian-Israeli declaration in Washington, a crisis surfaced between Jordan and the PLO over the question of Jerusalem. A Palestinian delegation recently visited Jordan. What is the latest in this regard?

[Al-Majali] There are no discussions or negotiations with the Palestinians on this point. All that happened in Washington, brother, [pauses]. The Hashemites' relationship with the holy places has existed since before 1948. From 1948 to 1967 there was unity between Jordan and the West Bank, and the holy places were under the direct supervision of the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry. When Jerusalem was occupied in 1967, it was agreed that Jordan would continue to take care of the holy places in the city despite the occupation. When Jordan severed its ties with the West Bank in 1988, the PLO also agreed that Jordan should continue to serve as the custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem. This fact had to be mentioned in the Washington Declaration so as not to be lost or relinquished. We will not relinquish this right because the issue of the holy places is a religious issue of concern to Palestinians, Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims. We are preserving these rights until the time comes and the Palestinian problem is solved completely in a way acceptable to all concerned parties.

[Abu-al-Majd] But if the PLO asks—and this is proposed, Dr. al-Majali—that it be the supervisor of the holy places when the Palestine question is solved with the Israelis, will you accept?

[Al-Majali] Sir, in that case, we will sit together. We have rights, they have rights, the Arabs have rights, and the Muslims have rights. We are not in conflict with the PLO. We are working so that the PLO will gain all its rights in the occupied territories, especially in Jerusalem. We are encouraging this and trying to get the PLO to reach this point, but it has not yet done so.

[Abu-al-Majd] And if the PLO reaches that point?

[Al-Majali] If it reaches that point, then we are brothers, and this will be the easiest matter to resolve.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Views Israeli Talks, Coordination

JN1608105894 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 21

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Muhammad Malkawi; place and date not given]

[Text] [Malkawi] How do you assess the progress on the Jordanian track in light of the positive results yielded by the historic Washington summit, the Washington Declaration, and His Majesty King Husayn's efforts that have led to a clear Israeli recognition of Jordan's territorial and water rights?

[Al-Majali] Under the Washington Declaration, Israel recognized Jordan's sovereign territorial and water rights. The opening of the border crossing in the south has a positive significance as part of the battle for a general peace based on UN resolutions.

Thanks be to God, we have begun the process of a return to normality. Over the past 46 years, we have lived under abnormal conditions. Thanks be to God, we are now moving in the direction of a normal state of affairs. We are looking with optimism to the future. We are looking forward to mobilizing our resources. I am confident that the Jordanians are prepared to wage the battle for peace. A return to normality calls for us to make the most of our intellectual and creative capabilities.

I have no doubt that the success achieved on the Jordanian track will help other tracks move forward.

I would like to emphasize had we felt that the battle for peace would not be fruitful we would have stayed away.

[Malkawi] Without question, the religious sovereignty obtained by Jordan from Israel amounts to a gain for the Arab and Islamic nations and keeps the holy places from coming under anybody's control. It is common knowledge that political sovereignty over Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians. What is the state of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority over Jerusalem and how does that affect the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks?

[Al-Majali] The Hashemites have exercised sovereignty over the religious places since the beginning of the century. Even under occupation, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has had sovereignty there. There has been Arab consensus on the matter. The disengagement decision retained the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's sovereignty over the holy sites in the West Bank.

Let me reiterate here that Jerusalem has been entrusted to the care of the Hashemites. Al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali gave his life for Jerusalem. The founding father the late King

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

'Abdallah Bin-Husayn was martyred in its cause. Had Jordan not succeeded in maintaining its sovereignty over the holy places through the Washington Declaration, their fate would not have been any different from the occupied territories'.

[Malkawi] Can you tell us about coordination with Syria and the other Arab parties?

[Al-Majali] Throughout the past decades, the Hashemite leadership has been concerned about creating full Arab cooperation and coordination, whether on the issues of unity and liberation, the Islamic nation's issues, and the Palestine question and the joint Arab action. His Majesty King Husayn's stands have always been honorable and courageous. These stands have never been parochial or personal. The Hashemite stand toward the Palestine question has always been honorable and based on a just and comprehensive peace which was approved by all Arab summits. Jordan has always presented its concept of peace very clearly until the Madrid conference began with Arab participation, after which Arab coordination began on all the Arab-Israeli tracks, particularly on the Jordanian-Palestinian track. The Palestinians then chose to go it alone and to run their own affairs independently because they know their interests and internal affairs better than any other party. Based on this, Jordan made its decision, which was blessed by the sons of the people, to give a push forward to the Jordanian track by signing the agenda in Washington in September last year. Jordan has continued its efforts to coordinate with the Arab brothers for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace. The Washington summit has crowned the Hashemite leadership's efforts to restore Jordan's full rights from Israel.

Coordination with the Syrian brothers has never stopped. We are with Syria's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. I assure you that coordination between the two leaderships has never stopped.

[Malkawi] Economic circles inside and outside Jordan are talking about an economic relaxation soon in Jordan and the region. Would you tell us something about the signs of this relaxation, the U.S. Administration's commitments in the wake of King Husayn's successful visit to the United States, and the loans, credit facilities, and military aid allocated to Jordan in the U.S. budget?

[Al-Majali] Jordan is the only Arab state which shouldered the economic and social burdens over the years. Jordan has paid the price of any Arab crisis since 1948 and until the Gulf war. After the return of a normal situation, the economic boom has become certain. It will benefit all parts of the homeland in all fields.

We are currently experiencing the battle for reconstruction and building, and our success hinges on the reactivation of capabilities and resources. The process of writing off Jordan's debts has really begun. The U.S. Administration and the Congress have approved this. Moreover, the U.S. Administration has close contacts with the creditor countries to persuade them to write off or reschedule Jordan's debts. This will reflect positively on the national economy and on tourism, water, and agricultural sectors, and all the other economic fields.

[Malkawi] Jordan has raised the issue of the Palestinian refugees living on its territory and has called for their right to repatriation or compensation. Where have Jordan's efforts reached in this respect?

[Al-Majali] The refugee issue is one of the most prominent aspects of the Palestinian cause. The Hashemite leadership seeks to settle this issue and to have Palestinians regain their rights. Jordan will continue to call for the full rights of the refugees within the framework of Arab coordination. The situation of the refugees in Jordan differs from what it is in the other Arab countries. They enjoy full rights. As for the issue of the displaced, I would like to affirm that they have the right to return or to remain as citizens with rights and obligations.

[Malkawi] Some Islamic movements, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood, announced their opposition to the peaceful settlement with Israel. The Muslim Brotherhood threatened to withdraw from the House of Representatives. What would have been the Government's stand had the Muslim Brotherhood insisted on its stand?

[Al-Majali] As you know, dialogue and consultations with all parties is one of the pillars of Jordanian democracy. The differences in opinion are a healthy sign. However, the strategy is one and revolves around the interest of the homeland and the citizen. I do not believe there is any basic disagreement on strategic objectives. All agree on the constants. The disagreement could be on the means. This further consolidates the march. As for your mentioning that the Islamic factions have threatened to withdraw from Parliament, I have not heard about such a thing.

[Malkawi] Your Excellency and your government are well known for your open-mindedness and commitment to democracy. However, there are claims that the Government interferes in the Friday sermons. Is this true? There are those who support and those who oppose fiery mosque sermons. What is the government's stand on these sermons in light of the current atmosphere of democracy?

[Al-Majali] Democracy, according to us and to all those who believe in it, consists of dialogue and constructive consultations. We reiterate our commitment to this trend. We support it so that Jordan may remain strong and safe. However, we are not for the exploitation of pulpits as propaganda trumpets for any party. There are channels and other means any party or group may use to voice their opinion.

[Malkawi] The Saudi papers' stand on the Washington summit and King Husayn's U.S. visit was positive. Do you believe this is a sign on the road to improving relations between Jordan and Arab Gulf countries, particularly with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Majali] We support Arab consensus and Arab coordination. You know very well that the history of the Hashemite leadership is replete with courageous Arab stands which seek to enhance and consolidate Arab coordination. Saudi Arabia is one of the Arab countries with which Jordan is eager to

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

enhance coordination in view of its position on the Arab and international level. I hope that in the coming stage there will be Arab coordination for the sake of the peace battle whose beginnings we are witnessing. One can compare Arab differences to Arab indebtedness. Let us try to schedule our differences, give ourselves a grace period, and reschedule our debts toward the cancellation of all these differences. We cannot deny that the region is being rearranged. This new rearrangement can take place in accordance with what we and all the Arab brothers want if all the Arab differences are settled.

Al-Majali, Iraq's 'Aziz Review Regional Situation

JN1408092394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office this morning Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for parliamentary and legal affairs, and Yusuf al-Dalabih, minister of state at the Prime Ministry.

The two sides exchanged views and reviewed the overall situation in the region and the recent developments on the regional and international levels. They also discussed bilateral relations to serve the interests of the fraternal Jordanian and Iraqi people.

Report of Prince-Israeli Mayor Meeting Denied

JN1308073094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug 94 pp 24, 21

[Text] Amman, PETRA—The Royal Hashemite Court yesterday denied a news report published by the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT the day before yesterday on an alleged meeting between one of the princes and the Israeli mayor of Ashdod.

A spokesman for the Royal Hashemite Court told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY that this news report is baseless.

The Israeli papers yesterday published a report to the effect that YEDI'OT AHARONOT was victim of a trick by an Israeli company, which leaked the news report to the aforementioned paper.

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey

JN1608115994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] His majesty the king bade farewell to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan as he left for Turkey this morning.

The crown prince will meet with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel for talks on bilateral ties.

His royal highness was also seen off by their royal highnesses Prince Faysal and Prince Ghazi, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and other officials.

Saudis Reportedly Delaying Jordanian Goods in Jeddah

JN1408112594 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Aug 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Salam al-Shawwa]

[Text] AL-ASWAQ has learned that the Saudi customs authorities four days ago began implementing a new policy to delay containers bound for al-'Aqabah via the Saudi port of Jeddah.

These authorities, without giving any justification, began strict inspections of containers and refused to reload goods after inspection.

Informed sources told AL-ASWAQ that the Saudi customs authorities had begun opening all containers and inspecting the goods imported by Jordan, and were preventing the reloading of the goods onto ships that would carry them to al-'Aqabah even after the inspection was made, and without giving any justification.

The same source expressed astonishment at such an unjustified measure by the Saudi authorities. A ship has been waiting at the port of Jeddah for two days for the loading of goods to Jordan although the goods have been inspected.

Shipping sources are amazed with this move, especially as the Jordanian shipping companies decided to import goods via the Saudi port of Jeddah after several shipping companies stopped direct sailings to al-'Aqabah as a result of the inspection operations and delays caused by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Saudi authorities' motives are as yet unclear, especially since inspections in the past have been carried out without complications through the inspection of random samples.

The seriousness of such a procedure will have an adverse effect on the port of al-'Aqabah, and the ships that stopped sailing to the port and started delivering goods to Jeddah are expected to stop carrying Jordan-bound goods.

Jordanian importers will be forced to resort to Lebanese and Syrian ports as alternatives to the port of al-'Aqabah. The ships that carried goods from Jeddah to al-'Aqabah also used to serve trade between Jordan and both Europe and the United States.

Five shipping companies operate ships between al-'Aqabah and Jeddah.

European Union To Grant Funds for Imports

JN1508145994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The European Union has decided to give Jordan a grant of 30 million ECU, equivalent to $36 million, to support the program for economic adjustment Jordan launched in 1989.

European Union sources in Amman said the Central Bank will use the grant to finance imports, particularly in the fields

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

of education, preliminary health care, and hospitals. They noted that an agreement in this regard will be signed in the near future between the Planning Ministry and the European Union's representative.

Economic Delegation Departs for Iran

JN1308142494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] A Jordanian economic delegation, led by Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, left Amman today for Iran on an official visit scheduled to last several days.

The delegation will hold talks with Iranian officials on ways to enhance economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in the interest of both countries.

Officials Welcome End of Syrian TV Jamming

JN1608094394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 94 pp 1, 6

["Special" by Natasha Bukhari]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian officials on Monday [15 August] welcomed the end of Syrian jamming of Jordan Television (JTV) transmission as an indication of the Damascus government's willingness to open up to all parties involved in the peace process.

Official sources said the end to the four-year jamming of JTV's transmission reflects Damascus' wish to start preparing the Syrian public opinion in favour of making peace with Israel.

The sources noted that Syrian TV carried in full the speeches of His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin in Washington on July 25, announcing the end to a 46-year state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel as well as the inauguration of the al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing on Aug. 8.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times that Syria was now expected to appoint an ambassador to Amman and accept the reappointment of the Jordanian ambassador to Damascus.

Syria has not had an ambassador to Jordan since the last one ended his mission more than a year ago.

"This is definitely an indication that relation between Syria and Jordan are still strong despite the negative media propaganda that suggests otherwise," said one official, adding that "media openness is very crucial to positive communication."

Lower House Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that "Jordanian-Syrian relations should not be conditioned to the variable emerging situations."

"Both sides should base their relations on their long standing strategic harmony in order to serve the two countries' political, economic and security interests," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

He added that "this continuous harmony reflects the congruence of the Jordanian and Syrian points of view in regard to safeguarding strategic interests."

JTV director-general Ihsan Ramzi said the end to Syria's jamming of JTV broadcasts also ended an "abnormal situation which prevailed since the Gulf war."

Mr. Ramzi said that JTV has always cooperated with Syrian Television and both stations are "complementary in delivering one message."

According to the sources, Syrian moves to end the strain in ties by adopting symbolic measures should be viewed against the backdrop of the latest developments on the peace process.

Crown Prince Forms Royal Development Committee

JN1408165694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] A royal decree has approved the formation of the Royal Committee for Modernization and Development.

In a message, his majesty has instructed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to chair and form the committee whose main task is to create a proper, fair, and clearly-defined economic and investment climate to pave the way for overall national development.

The crown prince sent a reply message to his majesty naming the 12-member committee, and expressing his deep gratitude to his majesty to his majesty for assigning him to the chairmanship of the committee.

Prince Hasan said the Royal Committee would establish a sound and proper economic climate based on clear, legislative, and administrative bases.

He added the committee would work to stave off any undisciplined and negligent behavior, or the use of office for personal gains that could undermine the national economy and harm Jordan's credibility.

His royal highness said the people of Jordan had sought to consolidate the foundations of comprehensive development, deriving their capabilities from his majesty's vision to build a stronger Jordan.

His royal highness pledged to do his utmost for the success of the committee's mission, and pointed out that at the top of priorities would be to consider setting up a central purchase system, and drafting a foreign trade policy.

He said he would reassert the role of the Audit Bureau and the administrative ombudsman.

[Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic, during its 1500 GMT newscast on 14 August, lists the following members of the Royal Committee: Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Dr. Jamal Nasir, Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Riyad al-Shak'ah, 'Adnan al-Qudat, Hashim al-Tall, Mustafa al-Qaysi, Dr. 'Abd Kharabishah,

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Sulayman al-Hafiz, Dr. 'Abd Shakhanibah, 'Awn al-Khasawinah, and Turki Haddad]

Cabinet Said 'Divided' Over Dissolving Brotherhood

JN1508092894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that last week, the Council of Ministers discussed an important and serious report presented by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad on dissolving the Muslim Brotherhood group in Jordan. Government quarters said the report pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood has violated the laws and regulations governing associations, which prohibit political action and joining the ranks of the opposition.

In his report, the interior minister cited several activities and speeches made by the Muslim Brotherhood members recently, which, the minister said, were in clear violation of the bases and principles on which the group was founded.

Reliable quarters told AL-MAJD that the Council of Ministers was divided into two camps over the attitude toward the Muslim Brotherhood. Minister [of Education] 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah opposed the idea of disbanding the group. He was supported by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Jum'ah Hammad, and 'Abd-al-Salam al- 'Abbadi. The prime minister and three ministers, whose names we will not publish, sided with the interior minister. Those ministers strongly criticized the recent practices of the Brotherhood, especially after the Washington summit and declaring an end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

Al-Rawabidah was the strongest opponent to a plan to dissolve the group. He said determining the fate of the Muslim Brotherhood is not the business of the Council of Ministers. This is the business of the throne institution, which has a long history and distinguished ties with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Al-Rawabidah advised caution and careful thinking when addressing such highly sensitive issues. He cited the bloody conflicts between governments and Islamic groups in Egypt and Algeria, arguing that dissolving the Muslim Brotherhood will lead to civil war in Jordan.

Informed sources told AL-MAJD that the Executive Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood declared a "state of emergency" as soon as it learned about what took place during the Cabinet session. The Executive Council has been holding meetings and consultations. The leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood have reacted in different ways to these developments, with some of them expressing extremist and others moderate views.

The extremists think that discussing dissolving the group is no more than a government maneuver to frighten the group and prompt it to adopt a lenient, moderate approach and adapt to the requirements for reconciliation and peace between Jordan and Israel. They also think that dissolving the group and banning it in public will not destroy it. In fact, this would solidify its organizational structure and win it popular sympathy. This would also drive it to go underground, devise new methods for jihad, and free itself of any old moral obligations toward the Jordanian ruling authority.

The moderates think, however, that dissolving the group is quite likely and that discussing this issue by the Cabinet is a serious move and not a maneuver to intimidate and silence the group. They also think that the plan to dissolve the group cannot be separated from the security agreements Jordan signed with America and Israel and should be viewed against the backdrop of the fierce war launched by several Arab and foreign sides and regimes against Islamic fundamentalism, considering that it poses a threat to the Western-Zionist culture and an alternative enemy to the Soviet Union and the socialist camp.

While the hawks and youth of the Brotherhood show indifference toward the plan to dissolve the group and think this plan is meant to slash the moderates and strengthen the extremist logic on all Brotherhood levels, the doves and seniors of the Brotherhood are greatly worried and are seeking to contain the crisis, but not at any price. The latter group is drawing attention to the recent press campaigns against the group in several state-owned newspapers by which the government seeks to prepare the public for a political blow to the group that is working to mobilize Jordanians against the Washington Declaration and the rest of the reconciliation and normalization steps.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Al-Hirawi Vows Israel Security After 'Withdrawal'

NC1508211694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has praised the relentless efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, which the paper will publish tomorrow, Tuesday, al-Hirawi said that President Mubarak is exerting intensive efforts for peace during his consultations and regional and international trips. This is what we expect from Egypt, a big sister, and its president. Egypt has the right to lead and the privilege to assist. Lebanon and all Arab brothers are grateful for Egypt and President Mubarak, al-Hirawi stated.

The Lebanese president said that Egypt has a significant role to play. President Mubarak has never abandoned that role and is making ceaseless efforts to assist all Arabs. Mubarak and the Arab brothers are aware of Egypt's important and effective role in the Arab and international scene, al-Hirawi said.

The Lebanese president reiterated his country's insistence on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israel's withdrawal from the Lebanese south. He vowed to guarantee Israel's security if it withdraws from the Lebanese south and the Golan.

President al-Hirawi expressed appreciation of the recent decision by the Damascus Declaration countries that there will be no relations between Israel and those countries so long as the Golan or the Lebanese south remains occupied.

Egypt's relations with Israel has never been at the expense of its Arab brothers, al-Hirawi said. He added that Israel has not yet succeeded in normalizing its relations with the brotherly Egyptian people.

The Lebanese president reiterated that Lebanon will not sign a separate peace. He said that unilateral action by the Jordanians or the Palestinians is their own concern.

President al-Hirawi declined to answer a question about the possibility that a new type of peace will prevail in the region after King Husayn of Jordan said "shalom" to senior Israeli Government officials during his flight in Israeli airspace.

Answering a question on whether Lebanon will take part in an international or regional formula for combating terrorism, al-Hirawi said that Israel should first withdraw from Lebanon. Once this is done, we will not ask any side to assist us because we are capable of ending any excesses on our own. "With our Army and own potentials we are able to put a firm rein on any excesses threatening security," he stated.

President al-Hirawi added that Hizballah and other resistance groups are numerous in the south. Resistance is underground work and we are pleased with it, he stated. Israel insists on restricting Hizballah's movement, as if it were the only resistance group. We tell it and we tell anyone else who cares to listen: "Let Israel get out of Lebanon and then ask us for security. We will pledge to guarantee its security," al-Hirawi declared.

Says No Separate Peace With Israel

NC1608100194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has revealed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has proposed to Lebanon that it stop the resistance so that Israel can leave the south. He said the Lebanese reply was: Let Israel withdraw and we will deploy the Army and thus the resistance will stop.

Speaking to the delegation of the Secretariat General of the Union of Arab News Agencies, which visited him today, President al-Hirawi stressed that Lebanon will not sign a separate peace with Israel. He also underlined the need to implement Resolution 425 and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He also called for establishing an Arab common market before it is swamped by what he called the Middle East market.

President al-Hirawi added that the Lebanese people now know who is their friend and who is their enemy, noting that the Lebanese people's political orientation has become unified. He stressed that we will continue to be with our kinsmen in the south so that they can remain steadfastly on their land. He said: We are paying a tax on behalf of all our Arab brothers.

The president denied that he intends to extend or renew his mandate in office. He said: I respect the Constitution. There are better people than I in the country. Moreover, our system does not permit such a thing.

Al-Hirawi Stresses Cooperation With Syria

NC1408074394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the opening of a tourist festival for expatriates in Duhur al-Shuwayr on 13 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The south's steadfastness against fire and oppression is a festival of fortitude and joy. [applause] [passage omitted] We want Lebanon to be a homeland of heroes, not a land of victims, as some want. Just as no one has been able to drown us in our own blood and tears, no one will be able to drown us in despair and doubt. [passage omitted] We will not give up one iota of our sovereignty and independence. [passage omitted]

We have chosen peace and development so that Lebanon can become a homeland of coexistence on the bases of freedom, democracy, and justice. [passage omitted]. With our unity we safeguard our sovereignty; with our work we build our society; and with our openness, we enhance our stance. Unity, work, and openness—these are the keys of our road to the future.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

We have chosen solidarity with the brothers to establish a just and comprehensive peace. Even though some others have acted separately, this will not prompt us to act separately. We are with Syria and Syria is with us. [applause] Together we defend Arab dignity. Together we defend our right to recover our occupied land. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Official Views Continuing Resistance

NC1608111994 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Bayram]

[Text] Followers of U.S. and Israeli statements concerning the ever tense situation in south Lebanon get the impression that Hizballah has grown into a power that Washington and Tel Aviv fear and consider in their calculations. In the talks U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held in Damascus priority was given to the activity and future of this party. And before that we saw the party as a force with which Tel Aviv would reach understanding on particular issues.

For rather a long time the party has competently grown into an influential force and through its unlimited sacrifices it has become a dreaded power—from south Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' to Argentina. This followed the retreat of all the other forces that for decades raised the banner of opposition to Israel and resistance of its existence based on usurping.

But are the role of this party and the effect of its resistance intentionally exaggerated for particular objectives harbored by the leaders of Tel Aviv and Washington? Or is it really that they cannot remove the party's influence and exclude it from the equation that may be drawn up in the region?

These days Hizballah does not conceal its confidence that, after a painstaking effort, it is indeed confusing Israel and forcing it to reconsider all its calculations.

A leader in the party says: "The recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres [title as published] that there is some kind of truce in the south was only a further indication of the frustration and confusion recently experienced by the Israeli leadership. The statement is somehow directed at the Israeli public, specifically at the Israeli military command, so that it will cut down its unrestrained activity and inclination to continue a losing battle against the Islamic Resistance. It is a cover Israel is trying to use to hide Tel Aviv's military and political losses and another feature of the crisis the Israeli leadership is facing.

"Thanks to our jihad we have effectively lowered the ceiling of Israeli demands and conditions to the minimum. Everybody remembers that before the war in July last year Israel demanded that Hizballah be uprooted. Failing to achieve this objective, Israel later demanded that Hizballah only be disarmed and soon the demand was lowered by asking that resistance operations stop or get frozen. After reaching what was termed 'the July understanding,' the ceiling of Israeli demands fell further, merely to halting Katyusha attacks against the occupied territories. The understanding shackled the Israelis' hands, restricted their movements, and confused them. It prevented them from shelling peaceful southern towns and villages and kept the door wide open to Resistance operations and attacks. This was proven by the Shihin operation, which was carried out only a few weeks after the understanding and that left at least 10 Israelis dead.

"The Israeli justifications for the situation do not satisfy or convince the Israeli public, which can see for itself that resistance operations are increasing and have succeeded in a short time in inflicting losses on the Israelis that are greater than the losses inflicted on the resistance. With the passage of time, the battle between the resistance and the Israeli military machine has turned into a real war of attrition for the Israelis, while the resistance has been increasingly embraced inside the country to the extent that it has become a symbol for all sectors of Lebanese society. This embrace has foiled Israel's plan to create a gap between the people and the resistance and between the resistance and the government by destroying and burning villages and displacing their inhabitants in order to create a new security situation that would in time result in political instability. The airborne invasion of July 1993 was the climax of this strategy."

We asked him: Why did the resistance resort to firing Katyushas at Israel? Will this be repeated?

He answered: "We did in fact fire missiles on Upper Galilee following the bestial massacre carried out by the Zionist planes at Dayr al-Zahrani. We did this in retaliation for the Israeli violation of 'the understanding.' We will repeat the shelling every time shells fall on any our people's houses. Israel must understand this and bear the consequences. We do not accept any excuse that there is a resistance office or official in this or that house. This is an unjustifiable excuse.

"I believe that Israel would have staged similar massacres daily in every southern village had we not resorted to shelling in retaliation for the Dayr al-Zahrani massacre.

"All in all, this massacre was an Israeli message to Syria and Lebanon, demonstrating the nature of Israel's plans in the wake of Christopher's tour of the region."

What is your stand on the recent notion that it would be possible to scale back the resistance if Israel committed itself to withdraw from the south in stages?

He answered: "In the first place, we do not trust Israeli pledges. The resistance is not willing to stop its operations in return for pledges. We are not a party that receives or accepts pledges from Israel.

"Our resistance will continue as long as Israel remains on a single inch of our soil. We will follow broader tactics if Israel expands its hostile operations. We reiterate that our resistance is not subject to internal or external political equations. It is linked to the presence of occupation."

What are you expecting from Israel?

He said: "We are expecting everything. But what is certain is the fact that its threats do not deceive anyone, because it does not have a free hand as in the past. It is known that Israel has for years used all its military expertise against us and against our people, from raids to invasion, destructive

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

shelling, displacement, assassinations, and kidnappings. But it has failed to twist the resistance's arms and has not succeeded in preventing it from spreading."

Hizballah 'Source' on Stepping Up Attacks

NC1608102294 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A responsible Hizballah source last night reacted to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks that attacks have stopped in the south and his insinuation that an agreement was reached in this connection in Damascus. The source told AL-NAHAR that this is nothing but an Israeli allegation. We have firm confidence in the Syrian stance, specifically President al-Asad's position and his vision of the nature of the conflict with Israel, the source said.

He added that this vision looks on the resistance as a mainstay of the position that holds on to rights and refuses to be dragged into accepting the Zionist-U.S. capitulationist conditions.

The source added: As we have repeatedly affirmed, the brother Syrians have reiterated that resistance is a natural right for our people, who are entitled to exercise that right as long as their land is occupied. Nothing indicates any change or development prompting the Syrians to change this position and give up free what they view as the basic point of strength concerning Zionist pressure. The coming days will show that resistance operations will continue at the same, if not a quicker, pace, he said. [passage omitted]

IDF Surprised at Hizballah Assassination Bid

TA1408102494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Riyad 'Abdallah, head of the SLA's [South Lebanese Army] security apparatus, escaped an assassination attempt on 12 August, when a powerful bomb exploded near a motorcade driving in the vicinity of al-Khiyam prison. It was earlier reported that the bomb was activated when Riyad 'Abdallah's motorcade was moving through the town of al-Khiyam on Friday night. 'Abdallah was unhurt, but his car was slightly damaged. "Astonishment was voiced" in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The approximately 15-kg bomb was placed in a garbage can and exploded when 'Abdallah's car was about 10 meters away.

Army sources said the fact that Hizballah men had managed to place an explosive device in the area of al-Khiyam prison was "extremely unusual." The military sources further asserted that no guerrilla activities have taken place in that area in recent years.

"It is odd and surprising," the military sources said, summing up the event. The perpetrators had apparently received information about Riyad 'Abdallah's movements.

Riyad 'Abdallah, chief of the SLA security apparatus, is a Shiite from al-Khiyam. After the assassination attempt, the IDF declared an alert, mainly in south Lebanon, in anticipation of further Hizballah operations. Isolated events were reported in south Lebanon over the weekend, but aside from the assassination attempt on Riyad 'Abdallah, none were unusual. Army sources said the continuous Hizballah attacks were aimed mainly at SLA positions.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 14 August adds: "recently, the SLA has been finding it difficult to recruit new soldiers because local residents are worried that the IDF will leave south Lebanon following a political agreement with Syria and Lebanon. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman quotes south Lebanese sources as saying that SLA soldiers and their families are worried about their future and that the Hizballah attacks against SLA soldiers have increased their concern."]

UNRWA Plans To Settle Palestinians Reported

NC1408064694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-ANWAR reports today that UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] officials have made an on-the-spot inspection of areas in Iqlim al-Kharrub that could be suitable for settling Palestinian refugees. The UNRWA officials, who were accompanied by Lebanese Government representatives, found a suitable plot of land near the village al-Dubbiyah. Following protests by the village inhabitants, an alternative site was found near the town of Barja. Negotiations are under way to buy a plot of land approximately 2,000 square meters in area. [passage omitted]

Minister: Government Unaware of Resettlement Plans

NC1408134394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Hasan 'Izz-al-Din, minister of vocational and technical education, has stated that neither the government nor the public is aware of any plan to resettle the Palestinians in Lebanon.

After meeting with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr today, 'Izz-al-Din said that the separate agreements between Israel and both the Palestinians and the Jordanians will result in several problems, notably the resettlement issue.

Amal Exhibits 2 Captured SLA Members

NC1508164894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Amal Movement today exhibited at one of its offices in the south two members of the agent militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] whom it arrested in the outskirts of Hula. One is Ghassan 'Abdallah Ahmad Mahmud, born in Hula in 1977, bearing military ID number 99945, who

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

worked as a bodyguard for a security official at the said militia. The second is 'Ali Mahmud 'Ali al-Hajj, born in Hula in 1979.

In Mahmud's possession was the ID of his father, 'Abdallah Mahmud, who also works for the militia's security organ. Mahmud said that he started working for the agents in 1992. His last assignment was with 'Aytarun's security organ. Mahmud added that he and al-Hajj were arrested while shooting birds in the outskirts of Hula and were subsequently taken out of the occupied border strip.

In a related development, the Amal Movement issued a statement calling on the Lahd elements to stop acting as sandbags for an enemy that is still committing massacres in the south and Western al-Biqa'. Resistance, the statement says, is the choice of all Lebanese who wish to rid their country of the filth of the occupation. Resistance will continue so long as the occupation continues. Its escalation is the only practical answer to the enemy's crimes against women and children in Dayr al-Zahrani, Yuhmur, and other areas, the statement says. The entire country backs the resistance in its fight against the enemy's schemes and ambitions, the statement adds.

Photocopies of the military ID's, issued by the agents' command and bearing Hebrew writing, were handed out to journalists.

Air Force Attacks Hizballah Targets in South

TA1508150294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes attacked Hizballah terrorist targets in Jabal Rafi'a in south Lebanon this afternoon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that all planes returned safely to base, and the pilots reported good hits on the targets.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the attacked area is under Hizballah control and the targets served as training sites and bases for departing for attacks.

Security Situation, Resistance Attack Reported

NC1608084594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] A spokesman for the agent [South Lebanese Army] militia has admitted that a troop carrier belonging to the militia was hit by an electronically-guided missile at the Zummarayya crossing gate around 0815 today. The carrier was destroyed, three of the crew were killed, and two were seriously wounded.

In another development, occupation and agent militia artillery bombarded the liberated areas in Hasbaya. The Mimas-Marj al-Zuhur road has been closed completely in both directions and farmers have had to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, the area of Jabal al-Rafi' is still being shelled from the occupation positions.

An Islamic Resistance group this morning clashed with a garrison manning the Taw'amat Niha position that overlooks Jazzin and western al-Biqa'. No casualties have been reported. Immediately afterwards, the hills of Mashgharah and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah came under machine gun and artillery fire.

In another development, Israeli troops raked the forests and trails on the outskirts of western al-Biqa' with heavy-caliber machine guns.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Al-Asad Receives Foreign Relations Delegation

JN1608160494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] At 1215 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation representing the Washington-based Council of Foreign Relations, led by Henry Sigmund.

The delegation members briefed the president on the activities of the Council of Foreign Relations, as well as its role in the U.S. academic and political life.

The conferees discussed the Middle East peace process, which was launched at the Madrid conference and has so far not achieved its objective of a just and comprehensive peace.

President al-Asad reviewed the broad outlines of Syria's policy toward the peace process, which is in conformity with the charters and resolutions of international legitimacy and the foundations of the peace process. He said Syria's strategy is to establish a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the interests and dignity of all parties.

Al-Asad Reportedly Fires Special Forces Head

NC1508211194 Paris AFP in English 2042 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 15 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has sacked the head of his elite special forces, General 'Ali Haydar, informed sources said Monday [15 August].

Al-Asad replaced him with General 'Ali Habib, who headed Syrian units which fought in the US international force which ejected Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf War of January-February 1991, the sources said.

Haydar was fired for insubordination after receiving several warnings and has been undergoing questioning since August 3, the sources said without giving details.

There was no official confirmation available Monday evening.

The special forces are an elite formation of 10,000 to 15,000 shock troops.

Jordanian 'Personalities' Cable Support to al-Asad

JN1508162694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Cable sent to President Hafiz al-Asad from "a group of Jordanian personalities"; date not given]

[Text] Under the current circumstances, the masses of our people are living in a state of anticipation, caution, and anxiety due to the various repercussions of negotiations with Israel. Israel is making various attempts to single out each of the concerned Arab countries, depending on strong and many-sided U.S. support, in order to gain as much as possible and to disavow commitments mandated by international legitimacy and UN resolutions. Meanwhile, Syria's insistence on implementing international resolutions and achieving a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is considered an extremely important and meaningful stand and is fully backed and welcomed by all nationalist forces, which are struggling to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to regain our Arab nation's usurped rights.

Your position contributes to efforts to confront the state of despair, which is being imposed to peddle unjust solutions against our people.

The cable was signed by Shaykh Nayif al-Khurayshah, Mahmud al-Ma'ayitah, Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, lawyer Mijhim al-Tall, lawyer Rizq al-Batayinah, former deputy Jawdat al-Muhaysin, former deputy Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi, journalist George Haddad, lawyer Shahir al- Rawashidah, lawyer Salih Kunay'an al-Fayiz, Dr. Ahmad al-'Awayishah, Dr. 'Adnan Hasan Abu-Ghanimah, Dr. Sayil al-Khatayibah, Dr. Salim al-Hiyari, journalist Marwan al-Sakit, Dr. Ahmad al-Qatayinah, 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-'Ati, Fu'ad Dabbur, Mrs. Emily Naffa', Sharif Halawah, Dr. Khalid Hamshawi, Mahmud Bustanji, Husayn Sa'id, 'Adnan al-Bakri, Faraj al-Tumayzi, Rashid Shuqayr, Khalil Hazza', 'Izzat al-Duraydi, 'Ati Nasrawin, Dr. Jamal Bani-Hani, Samih Salamah 'Ubaydat, lawyer Ahmad al-Zu'bi, lawyer Hafiz 'Abd-al-Haqq, Khalid al-Hattah, Muhammad Hassan, lawyer Ziyad Haddadin, Tahsin Abu-Zanimah, Mahmud Muhaylan, Isma'il al-Nubani, and Badr 'Aql.

Al-Shar' Briefs Group Peace Process, Policy

JN1508184594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1800 today chaired by Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the NPF. During its meeting, the Central Command listened to a comprehensive political report presented by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the latest political developments in the Arab, regional, and international arenas. The Central Command discussed the report fully and noted that the policy being pursued by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad honestly expresses full commitment to the higher national and pan-Arab interests.

The Central Command reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and concluded that this process is being obstructed by Israel's attempts to violate the principles on which the Madrid peace conference was held and to circumvent UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy calling for the retrieval of Arab rights and for total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Israel, the Central Command noted, also tries to penetrate the Arab negotiating position and to single out each Arab side in order to entrench its policy of unilateral solutions.

The Central Command also stressed that Syria adheres to the peace process in accordance with the bases of that process and that it persistently endeavors to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region in line with the principles that can perpetuate this peace.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The Central Command then reviewed current preparations to hold elections for the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly and concluded that these preparations, coupled with large-scale party and popular activity, are new proof that our people are exercising the highest forms of democracy. The Central Command also expressed its appreciation for all the positive phenomena representing this democratic practice based on free competition and the will of the citizen to elect his representatives at the People's Assembly. It also viewed these phenomena as a new promotion of the level of popular awareness of the need to elect the best to express the beliefs of the citizens and to reinforce the traditions of democratic action, whose groundwork was laid down by President Hafiz al-Asad. The Central Command also reaffirmed that the national unity is considered an impregnable fortress for protecting our internal front and preserving our great gains and achievements in the interest of the homeland and the citizens.

The NPF Central Command highly values the great efforts of President Hafiz al-Asad to maintain our national and pan-Arab interests and to safeguard national honor and pan-Arab dignity. It also stressed that the NPF and its parties, as well as the masses of our people and our nation, are rallying around his historic leadership, which best expresses the hopes and aspirations of our nation.

Minister: Assembly Candidates Free To Advertise

JN1408185794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Replying to a question by the Syrian Arab News Agency, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah said: Each candidate running for the People's Assembly membership is free to display and distribute pictures, placards, posters, and advertisements in any place that achieves his propagandistic wishes. He is also free to fill any space needed by his propagandistic campaign.

Press Examines Aims of Israeli 'Campaign'

JN1608091394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Black History," TISHRIN writes: A new hate campaign is being directed by the Zionists against the forces hostile to their policies so as to intimidate them into accommodating Israel's expansionist plans.

The Zionist movement raises the specter of anti-Semitism to win sympathy and material support. The Zionist movement's black history abounds with cases where the Zionists mounted acts of terror against their own people. They lent a hand to the Nazi effort to liquidate tens of thousands of German Jews, and are now behind terrorist, bloody campaigns directed at Jewish communities in Iraq and Yemen and the former Soviet Union. The common thread running through these efforts is the intimidation of Jews into emigrating to Israel.

The charges the Zionist movement is leveling against Iran are meant to pressure the Tehran Government into abandoning its hostility toward Israel and disengaging from Jerusalem and Arab and Islamic struggles for emancipation.

As long as Israel's decisionmakers are driven by the terrorist Zionist mentality the region is not likely to enjoy any measure of tranquility or stability; Zionism is anti-peace and anti-humanity; it is the fountainhead of wars, crime, instability, and mutual ethnic animosities. Zionism is the wellspring of the aggressive Israeli mentality advocating expansion into Arab territory.

One day, the enormity of the injury and harm inflicted by the Zionist movement on mankind over the past 100-odd years is bound to become apparent to all nations. Each and every global conflict that has erupted since the late 19th century bears the damning fingerprints of the Zionist movement, TISHRIN concludes.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Afghanistan

Deputy Prime Minister Leads Delegation to Egypt

LD1308181194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] At the invitation of the Egyptian ministries of foreign affairs and endowment, a high-ranking delegation, representing the Islamic state of Afghanistan, left for Egypt.

The Bakhtar Information Agency reports that a delegation, led by esteemed Mawlawi Arsalan Rahmani, deputy prime minister and minister of guidance and endowment, left for Egypt yesterday to take part in [words indistinct] conference of the Islamic states.

The delegation was seen off by a number of heads of departments of the Prime Ministry and Ministry of Guidance and Endowment.

Commentary Praises Security Council Statement on Arms

LD1308205594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The chairman of the UN Security Council has issued a statement asking the countries in the region to stop the flow of weapons to Afghanistan. The political commentator of the Bakhtar Information Agency writes:

Prior to the issuing of the Security Council statement, Masud Khalili, the presidential representative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, stated that the opposition groups could not continue the fighting during the past two years since the victory of the Islamic revolution without foreign help. He asked the Islamic and neighboring countries to assist Afghanistan in the task of monitoring the flow of weapons. Unfortunately, one of the neighboring countries saw this as a reference to itself and rejected any cooperation in this respect.

What is really encouraging to the Afghans in finding a solution to the conflict in Afghanistan—something which the Security Council's statement is also insisting upon—is the (?resolutions) of the high session of the Herat Islamic Shura. [passage omitted]

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has time and again said that the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations must supervise the proceedings of the gatherings which are relevant to the fate of peace and the restoration of security in the country. The Afghans are impatiently waiting for the convocation of Loya Jerga. The Herat gathering approved a resolution on the convocation of this Jerga within the coming three months, and in this respect the active role of the United Nations has been welcomed.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan is in complete agreement with the Security Council's view that the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan is endangering the stability of the situation in the region. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has several times so far declared a unilateral cease-fire to end the fighting but [word indistinct] by the opposition groups.

Afghanistan's views is that the continuation of warmongering efforts by the opposition groups is the main cause of concern of the international community regarding Afghanistan. For example, a member of the House of Representatives from California has recently said that the United States must pay urgent attention to the issue of Afghanistan. He pointed out that the criminals in Afghanistan who are trying to impose their will on the people of Afghanistan are the cause of concern. When they grasp power, by means of billions of dollars and narcotic substances, then the whole world will pay the price.

India

Prime Ministers Rao's Independence Day Address

BK1508161294 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0201 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Independence Day speech by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the Red Fort in Delhi—live]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen: I salute you all. Today, on the auspicious occasion of the 48th anniversary of independence, I greet you all and sincerely hope for the future welfare of our country and the whole world, your happiness, and national progress.

You are aware of the vast changes in the world over the last few years. The maps of many countries have been changed. Today, we see a global picture that is hardly recognizable; vast changes have taken place throughout the world. We are also trying to change along with these changes, but we do not want to abandon our basic principles and values. We cannot abandon them. The first thing Mahatama Gandhi told us was that independence does not mean changing masters; the essence of independence lies in changing the lives of the have-nots. We will move forward according to this inspiration and teaching. We have done so in the past, and I assure you that we will continue to adhere to it. This is the government's policy.

This government has been in power for three years—a little more than three years. Many things have happened, and from time to time I have kept you abreast of what is happening here. Overall, if you look at a picture of our country, you will see that much progress has been made in these three years, and in general the country is peaceful and the people are busy with the work of development and national progress. The utmost efforts have been made to deal with the problems we face and find solutions. These efforts are continuing; we will not fall behind in this task.

Punjab is peaceful and continues to occupy its usual leading position in the production of foodgrains and other development tasks. The Assam problem has been solved. There is a minor Bodo land problem, but it is also being dealt with. Some small clashes have taken place, but overall there is no cause for concern. In the northeast, we sometimes see

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

upheavals in our northeastern states and occasional inter-tribal clashes take place there, but overall the situation is under control—it is fully under control.

Now I come to Kashmir, which continues to be a problem for us. The situation has not improved fully. A lot of improvement has taken place, but normalcy has not returned there. The reason is clear—there is no need to go very far to find the reason. The encouragement, training, and money given to the terrorists there—who are sent to Kashmir after equipped with arms—from across the border, Pakistan, is known to all, and now no doubt remains about this. For many years we collected evidence of Pakistan's involvement. We forwarded it to friendly countries and kept them informed of Pakistan's activities. Now I believe there is no need for any further proof. After 14 August 1994, there is no need to present any proof to anyone, because they themselves have said that they will continue to extend assistance, supply arms, and send reinforcements to the terrorists, and this will continue forever. They have said this. Now after this, I want to ask our friendly countries: Honorable friends, what do you say now? Until yesterday, though you trusted us, you also used to say that Pakistan was providing this aid to the terrorists previously, but no longer. This was stated by some countries to me recently. Now, I want to ask them whether any more doubts remain today.

It is clear now that Pakistan is not only disinterested in stopping these activities, it is increasingly telling the whole world with pride that it will continue this interference. The answer to this interference is to tell them that we will also not rest until we put an end to your interference. We want to tell them that this is our pledge, our vow that we will continue to work to put an end to this interference. [applause]

Meanwhile, we have taken many steps in Kashmir; we have tried to restore peace in many ways. Other than terrorists, what should we call these people who kill all kinds of people? You should look at the list of people they have killed. They have killed lawyers, doctors, Kashmiri religious leaders, and even the state assembly speaker. Employees and officials of media organizations—All India Radio and the television—have also been killed. A university vice chancellor was killed. Government employees—discharging their duties without any political affiliation—have also been shot to death. Countless innocent civilians have been their victims. How would you describe these misdeeds? If it is not terrorism, what is it? I know of no other word for it. I want to assure you, however, that I am determined to fully eliminate this terrorism.

We have taken many other steps in Kashmir. Development work has begun. We have also started work on improving the civil administration, which is occasionally fear-stricken by the guns. I want to tell you that we will be revising the electoral rolls in the next few days to see if there are any new additions, and we are engaged in making the necessary amendments to the electoral constituencies there. All of this clearly points to the direction we have decided to take—we are moving toward elections. I do not want to give you a date because I know that fixing a date could provoke the terrorists into increased bloodshed. There is no problem, however, with the direction we have taken; the path we have adopted. I want to tell you that there has been no lapse on our part. With all the work that is being done, we would expect that the international community would appreciate our program and realize who is violating human rights. Who is trampling on human rights? I can say that our program will provide them with an opportunity to judge the issue correctly.

It is highly unfortunate not only that misdeeds are being committed, but that it is announced publicly—without any fear—that these are good deeds and they will continue to promote them. This is not the proper language for those endeavoring to seek friendship. I want to make an appeal. We have extended the hand of friendship, which you must accept. Wide-ranging talks could be held for our friendship. Differences that might arise could be overcome. However, whether Pakistan cooperates with us or not—with you, without you, in spite of you, Kashmir will remain with us. It is an integral part of India. There will be no difference in this position, not an iota of change. [applause]

They say that they have 120 million people. What should I say when they talk in terms of millions? You all know that it is not a matter of millions; it is a matter of law, justice, and the Constitution. You cannot change this. You cannot change history and run against the tide. They should understand this, and the earlier they understand the better it will be for all of us. This much I want to tell them.

Now, let us consider the economic scenario for a while. From time to time, I have been submitting before you all the progress we have made within three years. The situation that prevailed in our country in 1991 does not exist today. Conditions have vastly improved. On one side, we now have a foreign exchange reserve of 510 billion rupees. Please note that in 1991 we had only 30 million. It was not a simple matter for the foreign exchange to rise from 30 billion to the 510 billion. You can easily estimate how strong our current solvent position is. Moreover, it includes the IMF loans we have paid back this year. We have made the repayments much earlier than the deadline so as to avoid the increase in interest on the amount. We said: Alright, we will take a loan when necessary. However, today we have the money; therefore, please accept repayment in full. Has there been any incident like this? It has occurred only in a very few countries. It also happened once in India when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister. After that event, it has happened this year. I would like to tell you that it is very clear evidence of our solvency. Moreover, the people's faith in India has been stabilized. Money is coming in from outside and major industries are being set up. Recently, a few days ago, we gave clearance to a power project in Maharashtra with an investment of 80 billion rupees. I wish to have 10 or 12 more such projects in the country because we will be free from the commitment of funds for these projects. If these projects do not come up, investment does not come in from outside, and our affluent people do not invest here; then the government will have to collect the entire amount from you and spend on those projects. Without electricity, it is not possible to work. We will spend the amount we save in

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

this way on the poor, on children, on repairing schools, as well as on educational and health projects. I have frequently been telling you this. Today, I am submitting solid proof for it. Several proposals and projects of this type are forthcoming and a long process of investment has been set in motion as the people's faith in this country has been firmly established. They are now favorably convinced about the internal situation, the stability, the economic conditions, as well as the law and order situation in the country. They think that there is no loss or risk in investing here and that they can make considerable profit. People come here for profit. They earn their profit and we also benefit from it. People get employment. Our engineers, doctors, and thousands of such educated people are provided with employment. Therefore, we want this program to go ahead in a big way. And the setting up of a project somewhere does not have much impact because this is a big country. If it occurs in Maharashtra, people in Assam do not think too much about it. Projects should therefore be set up in Assam, Madras, Bombay, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. And when such major projects come up in all the states, then people will understand what industrialization involves and see the pattern behind it. Moreover, the money which comes in from outside is not meant to deprive us of our freedom. Our people also have a share in all the projects. These are joint ventures, in which there is investment from both India and abroad. Of the projects, about 80 percent are joint ventures. Therefore, it is totally wrong to say that in some way, you will be subdued by the money that comes from outside. These projects have investment from both sides—from home and abroad—and they will not go away anywhere. Nobody will take away these projects. When these projects come to us, they will remain ours. I want to assure you that our sovereignty will not be harmed whatsoever. And we are in need of all the projects coming up in the power—electricity—sector, in the oil industries, in the much- needed metallurgical and electronic industries, and in chemicals. These are not less important things and less important industries; we are greatly in need of them.

Now I turn to agriculture. By the grace of God, there have been good rains for the past three or four years. There have been good harvests; and our farmers are performing a miracle today. Perhaps there could not have been such a revolution in any country. Today we have a problem. You may not perhaps like it; nevertheless, it is entirely true that we have no place to store the grain from the autumn season crop that is going to come within 10 or 15 days. I have spoken about this earlier. Today I have obtained all the relevant data. Perhaps you may not be aware that today we have about 32.5 million tons of food grain as buffer stocks. We do not have anywhere to store it. Hence, we may have to stock it in the open, which may lead to considerable loss. However, we are helpless. [passage omitted]

With regard to minorities, we have quietly taken up several projects; we have not given them much display or publicity. I would like to state, however, that we have achieved double what I announced last year regarding the formation of a Rapid Action Force to protect people's lives and property. We were talking about the formation of some five battalions, but we have already formed 10 battalions and they have been deployed in different places that I will read for you. They have been deployed at places like Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Belgam, Delhi, Aligarh, Thiruvanathapuram, Jamshedpur, Bhopal, and Meerut. There are also some women's units among them, and they are sometimes called upon to improve the situation there as well.

Today we have 10 battalions deployed in the country. God forbid, if there is need for more—they are not required when the people live in peace and amity—we will be alert and will try to increase their contingents. Wherever we feel they are needed, we will not hesitate. They are being given special training. They are selected carefully and are prepared for anything. Whenever there is a riot or clash somewhere, they go there immediately and bring the situation under control. They have received special training for this. I feel that because of them, such riots can be and will be brought under control before they cause too much damage. As I have said, their numbers can also be increased.

As for the Minorities Commission, I have been talking about this time and again. You know that legislation has been passed on this. We are taking full care of the minority educational institutions and providing them with facilities. You are aware of the institution we have set up in the name of Maulana Azad, and there are many such institutions where education for minorities has been given special attention. I do not want to go into all the details because they have already been referred to.

Today, I would like to draw your attention to a major program. We wanted to set up a corporation to provide assistance to minorities in their education, industrial ventures, and other things. I made the announcement last year. There were some legal obstacles, but we made considerable efforts to overcome them. Today, I am happy to say that all the obstacles have been overcome and the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation will be established with an authorized capital of 5 billion rupees. A decision to this effect has been made. The Cabinet has given clearance for this. Within just a few days, you will see the structure of this organization and it will appear before you. I hope that hundreds of thousands of minority boys and youths will benefit from it; they should. This was the major pledge I made last year. I was worried about the delay, and so I personally looked into it and made efforts to overcome the obstacles. We succeeded, and this organization will now be presented to you.

I would like to pass on one more piece of good news. Today you can watch programs in 11 languages broadcast over Doordarshan. I remember last year, perhaps, I announced programs in five languages; today I am announcing 11. Moreover, you do not need 11 antennas to receive these 11 programs; sitting in Delhi, you can watch programs from Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, and Bombay through your own dish antenna. It is a great stride that Doordarshan has made in its service. Within a few months, I think there will be programs in 13 languages instead of 11. You can watch all of these programs in all of these languages on your television

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

through your dish antenna, no matter which part of the country they originate from. I am very happy to announce this.

On security matters, I addressed our soldiers last evening. They will receive full encouragement from us and the arms needed by them—the most modern arms and equipment—will be made available. There is no reason whatsoever to have doubt about it. They are working on the borders and assisting the people inside the country, too. They are also working in other countries where they earned a high reputation for India. They have carved out a place in the hearts of the people wherever they are working, whether in Cambodia, Somalia or anywhere else. I once again congratulate them and assure them that we will not lag behind or be found wanting in assisting them. Any armed forces are worth its name only if it is equipped with modern arms and there is no doubt or apprehension about its fighting ability. I want to congratulate and assure this to all our armed contingents, all wings of our forces.

We have also tried to improve the terms of condition of service of our armed forces. However, a wage commission is being constituted which will, perhaps, go deeply into the matter. I think money is not important, it is patriotism that counts. Our soldiers, whether on the borders, inside the country or anywhere else, are demonstrating their patriotism. They have given proof of patriotism. I believe in this and I once again congratulate them.

Now, I want to say something about foreign relations. Today, India enjoys friendly relations with all countries in the world. During the last three years, I visited many countries—the United States, Russia, China, England, Germany, France, Japan, Iran, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Oman, and many other countries—and I was very happy to know that these countries have respect for India and hold it in esteem. Their economic cooperation with us is increasing. This cooperation is increasing speedily. I want to tell you that this year this cooperation has increased many more times more than last year. The foreign economic cooperation received during the last three years is twice the entire cooperation received in the preceding 10 years. I do not want a comparison, but statistics show that this has happened. This cooperation is going to be on large-scale in future as well. I am going to visit Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam with whom we enjoy very cordial relations.

Pakistan is the only exception. I have already said that we enjoy good relations with all our neighbors. I once again ask our friends in Pakistan to accept the hand of friendship extended by us. Do not reject it. After all, we have to stay together as close neighbors. We cannot do away with our neighbors—we will continue to be located wherever we are.

There is a big hue and cry against our missile program. An intense propaganda is being carried out about it. It is quite strange that nobody talks about the same imported built-in on-the-shelf missiles acquired by Pakistan. Voices are raised if we want to carry out some tests on some missiles in laboratories. What sort of justice is this? This is beyond our comprehension.

Where have we raised spending? Where have we raised defense spending? Is India a small country? Such a big country—with very long borders and a vast coastline—has enormous defense requirements. Considering these factors, do I not have the right and the duty to fulfill all the defense requirements of such a big country? Regardless of who may say anything about it, I will see that all our defense requirements are made available. Our first and foremost program is the defense of the country. There is no scope for lowering our guard. There is no scope for bargaining on security matters. That is why I want to tell my friends not to compare India with other countries. Judge India on its merit and status. You will find that we have spent much less and continue to spend much less than other countries of our size. It is not justified to compare with any other small country and ask us to stop spending. Whatever is needed for national defense will be done. Let there be no doubt about this.

I want to tell you that I accept the notion that the whole world is changing. In some places, however, it is not changing. The mentality of some people has not changed. Today I am prepared to give economic meaning to our diplomatic relations that in the past have only existed in name or in principle. Why should we not expand these economic relations through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]? Why does Pakistan feel bad about it or hesitate? Let us cooperate with each other within the SAARC, a network of seven regional countries. For Pakistan, though, this is not possible; for them nothing is possible.

Wherever we go, our Pakistani friends raise the issue of Kashmir. I have stopped talking about Kashmir or replying to charges about it because it is not necessary to respond each time they raise it. The whole world knows about their charges and our answer. Everyone also knows about the actual situation on the ground; nothing is hidden from anyone. We keep repeating the same things, which is unnecessary. Now I hear that Pakistan is going to raise Kashmir at a health ministers conference. If they raise Kashmir at each and every conference in the world it will become a mockery. I want to tell my Pakistani friends that we have blood relations. I want to tell them in the name of these blood ties: For God's sake, do not do this. We can sort things out by sitting down together. Now you speak of an unfinished task. What is this unfinished task? In my opinion, to my knowledge and from our point of view, the only unfinished task remaining is to free a part of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan so that it can rejoin India. There is no other unfinished task. [applause]

You cannot take Kashmir away; forget it—there is the Simla Agreement. Let us sit down and shake hands so we can move forward shoulder to shoulder. Do not reject every prospect and possibility for a happy future. It is up to you, however. It is alright with us; we will stay in our place and will continue to do so and Kashmir will remain part of India forever. This much I want to tell you. I am not using threatening language. I am talking about stability—dispassionately and after considering all the pros and cons. If your language cannot change, at least your objectives should change. It would be better if your intentions change. Sometimes people are forced to speak a certain kind of language;

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

if they do speak this way, people will turn against them. These compulsions exist for some, and I am aware of this. In India we have no such compulsions, but there may be some compulsions of this kind in other countries. At the least their intentions should be proper—peaceful intentions. We want peace as well as sovereignty. We do not want to bargain on these two things. [passage omitted]

Sharma, Rao Greet Pakistani Counterparts

BK1408161194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] India has reiterated its commitment to good neighborly relations with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla agreement. This was conveyed by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to the Pakistani counterparts in felicitation messages on the occasion of Pakistan's independence day.

Pakistan TV Said To Carry Anti-India Propaganda

BK1608125194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that programs transmitted by a Pakistan television channel via satellite contain anti-India propaganda and tend to spread communal hatred. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singhdeo, told the house during the question hour that the government is aware that these programs can be received in India through an appropriate dish antenna by individuals and cable operators. He said at present programs telecast on foreign satellite channels are not governed by the laws of the country. Mr. Singhdeo said the Cable Television Network Regulation Bill now before parliament seeks to prohibit cable operators from transmitting any program which is not in conformity with the prescribed code.

Rajya Sabha: Declare Pakistan Terrorist State

BK1608125894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Members in the Rajya Sabha today demanded that Pakistan should vacate the occupied Kashmir. Raising the issue during zero hour, Mr. Satya Ravi—Congress-I, said Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India and there is no question of any compromise on the issue. He asked the government to convince the United Nations and declare Pakistan a terrorist state as Islamabad is aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir. He said human rights are being violated by the militants in the valley who are killing innocent citizens at the behest of Pakistan.

Minister on Anti-Rayon Publicity in U.S.

BK1608103394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] The center will convene a meeting of exporters and the concerned agencies to counter the adverse publicity for Indian rayon products in the United States. The textile minister, Mr. Venkataswamy, told the Rajya Sabha today that some vested interests are trying to scuttle the export market of Indian garments in the United States. He said so far it has not been proved that rayon is in any way dangerous. He said this seems to be part of concerted efforts by rivals in the export market to discredit Indian products. He said the government will assess the impact of this publicity and work out ways and means to counter it. The minister, however, ruled out that the exercise in the U.S. market may have any effect on the export performance of Indian ready made garments.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, the members urged the government to take immediate steps to counter the propaganda against Indian products. The members wanted that a delegation from India should be sent to the United States to present our case.

Iran

Ambassador to Argentina Recalled to Tehran

LD1508195694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially announced that it recalled Hadi Suleymanpur, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Argentina, to Tehran on Monday, 15 August, in order to hold certain consultations.

An informed source in the Foreign Affairs Ministry told our reporter: This recall comes in the wake of the spread of certain baseless allegations and propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's officials and diplomats, by some Argentine media and organizations.

He added: Despite an official request by the Islamic Republic of Iran, no evidence or document has been put forward by the Argentine officials. Various Argentine circles have, however, continued to repeat the baseless allegations made either by unreliable or by politically biased sources.

Nateq-Nuri Interviewed on Argentine Bombing

LD1508122894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Interview with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri by unidentified correspondent on 15 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] As you know, the United States and Israel, in a coordinated operation, are trying to distort public opinion with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran and are attributing the bomb explosion in Buenos Aires to us. Could your eminence, as the Majles speaker and a member of the Supreme National Security Council, tell us about your assessment of these developments?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Nateq-Nuri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Let me say that it could be foreseen sometime ago that the United States and the Zionists, in particular, were looking for pretexts to pick quarrels with us, and that they would be stepping up these maneuvers, especially after the summit of industrial countries' leaders and the Group of Seven, in view of the stances adopted there and in view of the signs and indications. One could predict that the wave of actions and propaganda against us would intensify. As for the incident that took place in Argentina—I think they arranged the scenario in such a way that we would become the first to be accused and, alongside us, Lebanon's Hizballah.

The issue is clear. As our people know, the evidence suggests that this act was probably their own handiwork, because the Zionists had already removed their documents and files, and it seems as if they planned this conspiracy in such a way that they could reach precisely the conclusions that they have done. Nevertheless, you can see that, despite all their preplanning, they have run into problems and contradictions. First, they announced without any justification or evidence—especially the Zionists—that the action was carried out by Lebanon's Hizballah, with Iranian support. Then they found an individual, who had an unsavory record in Iran. He was arrested on charges of swindling, economic irregularities, exploitation, and so on. His name is Manuchehr Mo'tamer. He had gone there [as heard] and, in fact, our people had helped him because he had asked for assistance. Our people and the embassy helped him in Venezuela.

At any rate, they found this person and he falsely claimed that he had been an Iranian diplomat and a Foreign Ministry employee. This was never the case and his past is very clear in Esfahan. Our people in Esfahan are very well aware of his past. The Mo'tamer family in Esfahan and his relatives—they are very respectable people and well-known—are all very unhappy about the situation and about the fact that this person has also brought shame on the family.

As a matter of fact, I saw a telex today which indicated that his wife's family—I have heard that they are also respectable people—are worried about their daughter and their grandchildren. They do not want them to become entangled in this political maneuver.

So, they found this person, and he himself has said certain lies and falsehoods. What is interesting is that Argentine officials realized after a few days that his claims were contradictory and that they were unable to find any evidence or documentary proof against Iran. They even said that that person has psychological problems and that he is an attention-seeker. They also confessed that they have nothing against Iran.

Again, a few days passed. I believe that the Americans and the Zionists exerted pressure on Argentina. As a result, the judge there claimed once again that a number of Iranians were involved. They named four people. Some of them have either worked at or are working in the embassy. Some are among prominent personalities of the country, including Mr. Parvaresh, the eminent Majles deputy for Esfahan, who is a prominent personality with an outstanding record of struggle during the revolution and a dignified and cultured person.

Last year he made a visit to Argentina with a delegation. They were thinking to themselves: What evidence can we find that will have some link and connection with Iran; the easiest thing to say is that the parliamentary delegation that paid a visit came to plan the bomb attack. What is regrettable—or perhaps it is a good thing—is that no matter how many times we summon the Argentine charge d'affaires to the Foreign Ministry, and no matter how often we ask the Argentine Government to present documentary proof of its claims, they have been unable to present anything and they do not have anything to present.

On the other hand, we ourselves are, more than anyone else, victims of terrorism. We continually state that to anyone wanting to assess the figures since the victory of the revolution, no country has had as many victims of terrorism as us, and we have always condemned both individual terrorists and state terrorism. We have said everywhere that we are prepared to cooperate toward preventing terrorism.

On the other hand, you can see that the Zionists and the Americans are more advanced and more involved than anyone else in the propagation of terrorism—in my view.

See for yourself: In Lebanon, in southern Lebanon, the Zionists enter a house and kidnap someone in front of his wife and children and take him away. No one in the world says anything. Well, how is it that they did not say anything when they came and took Mr. Mustafa Dirani in front of his wife and children? Is this not terrorism? Is this not kidnapping? They overlook all of this. Or again, the Monafaqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] who brought about the Mashhad incident, and who massacred people on Ashura—it does not take long before some of them are carrying out marches and demonstrations in the United States and in Western countries. And the West helps them, endorses them, encourages them. In fact, they are encouraging terrorism. Yet, on the other hand, they create such a hue and cry against Iran in connection with Argentina.

[Correspondent] As your excellency has pointed out, there is no evidence regarding the involvement of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the explosion. Has there been any legal action on our behalf?

[Nateq-Nuri] We have asked, and we have done things. For one thing, at the United Nations, we have informed the secretary general and the Security Council of the story. We have also asked Argentina for evidence. We ask it to give us evidence, to say who and what and on which evidence the events took place. Naturally we are certain they will not produce any evidence, and we have no choice but to clear our reputation against this accusation. We don't really want to disturb our relations with any country. As a member of this establishment I call on Argentina not to allow itself to be a plaything in the hands of Zionists and Americans; not to dishonor itself. Argentina will not win this game. It will definitely lose in entering this game and this risk. It should

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

not become a plaything. It should not accept pressure. It should be free and freedom-seeking. One day it says it has no evidence against Iran. The next day, apparently under pressure, it says it wants some persons to come as witness or as accused and that Iran should hand them over. Well, these talks are not rational nor legal. Our advice to Argentina is not to be a plaything in the hands of the Zionists and Americans, and to stand back from this game.

[Correspondent] Considering that the majority of world news agencies and mass media organizations operate under Zionist and U.S. pressure, in your excellency's view—what is the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran for world public opinion?

[Nateq-Nuri] We have always said several things are vital for us. One is the rights of humans. We have always been and are supporters of world peace. We have always recommended to belligerent countries—those in the region and those outside who come here—to solve their problems through negotiations and respect for mutual rights. Nothing is solved through skirmishes, conflict, or war.

We have also always said: You, the nations, are independent in terms of intelligence, comprehension, and perception. You should not accept partial and secret issues and commotions. It is natural for news agencies and the mass media that is under the Zionist yoke to receive money and to create a climate against this or that country or against this or that person or nation. You should not rely on this type of news, talk, atmosphere, and blackmail. Research and study, then pass judgement with awareness and justice. Our advice to nations is to research, study, and document what they hear. We support this.

Diplomats Sue Argentina for Defamation of Character

LD1508204494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpts] At the final meeting of the third five-year term of the country's judicial officials, the eminent leader's decree on the reappointment of Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as head of the Judiciary Branch was discussed and described as a charter for justice. [passage omitted]

At this meeting, the head of the Judiciary Branch expressed his regret at the Argentine judge's carelessness in making allegations against four Iranian diplomats. He said: As the head of the Judiciary Branch of a Muslim, independent, and free country, I would like to see that different judicial systems in other parts of the world would only think about what is right and just, while at the same time preserving their judicial independence and respecting human dignity. They should not mar the lofty status of justice by being influenced by the world's political and economic powers.

He added: The accused Iranian diplomats have filed suit with the Iranian Judiciary Branch to sue the Argentine judge for defamation of character and ask for restitution of prestige. They have asked the Argentine judge why, when authentic and credible documents show that they had not entered Argentina for from three to six months prior to the incident in question, they have been implicated in the case.

Prayers View Algerian Elections, Argentine Bombing

LD1308164294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1335 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] I should say a sentence or two on politics. Friends say that it does not matter if we do not mention this, because some gentlemen are probably more familiar with the issue. But what is mentioned in the Friday prayers, in particular those nationwide, are said to be repeated among the people. Well this makes it clear.

We are happy about our Hezbollah Algerian brothers. They officially won the elections, but the world which claims human rights started playing about—after the legal victory of the nation—and cancelled the elections. It was a plot to create an illegitimate and false government in power. They then set on the people. They arrested and killed dozens. Recently the Muslims have succeeded in disarming a military barrack and taking light and heavy weapons, probably to establish, in the future an Islamic government in Algeria. God willing, it will be. I am sure and have promised—although I might not see it for I am here today, but might not be so tomorrow—but God willing, you will see it.

This Islamic Republic of Iran was the start of the story. An Islamic and divine government, much like that of Iran and better, will be created in the neighboring country, in that country, in Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, Lebanon, and Pakistan. They will all come together and will be the Islamic Republics. All with Islamic governments and with sovereign Islam. With God's will and the your strength—Iranian combatants, youth, the Muslim Hezbollah youth of other countries—we shall witness this wish. God has given them success and this is the outcome.

Now the West is going to pick out my words again and say we support terrorism. No gentlemen, you have usurped the right. They won the elections legally. You cancelled the law. They have no choice but to defend themselves. It is natural for anyone to defend himself under attack. Why did you cancel the elections in Algeria? Why did you set about this game?

Some place has exploded in Argentina. Argentina is a very long country in South America, neighbor to a country longer than itself, Chile. There has been an explosion somewhere. Something to do with Argentina and Israel. About 80 to 90 people have gone to where they should, where God has foreseen. The world is now trying to tie this crime somehow or another to Iran. Gentlemen, do not be so biased. Mr. President of Argentina: You speak one way today and another way tomorrow. Great men have dignity; at least hold your honor. Lies are ugly for great men. I have to tell you this: whoever lies easily has no human dignity—even if it is

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

you, God forbid, which you are not. Whoever lies easily, fails in human dignity. Then they start to speak. Britain speaks one way. Others speak some other way. One day they blame Iran. On the next day say they have no evidence. On the third day they repeat. Be dignified, be honorable. [passsage omitted]

O you in the modern world, Mr. Clinton, Mr. this-or-that, you might not be religious, but what about a conscience? Why do you speak one way first and another way next. Iran is not aware of such falsehoods. Do not lie as to put yourself to shame later. O Iranians, Iranian Government, and Iranian nation, you should seek the truth and act accordingly. Do not go astray. You are great and will be even greater. [passage omitted]

The Koran says you have a lofty place. The truth is light. Thank God, we said we do not support terrorism. We think terror is wrong. No matter who might be doing it. We do not do it and do not help it either. Do not speak nonsense. It will be clear tomorrow and you will be in greater shame. [passage omitted]

Plan Outlines Retaliation to Military Strike

JN1208163994 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 18-20

[Report by Rafiq al-Zayn from Nicosia: "Secret Military Mobilization in Tehran; Alert Declared By All Fundamentalist Organizations Worldwide. Rafsanjani's Plan To Reply To Iran Siege, Military Strike; Hizballah Declares Mobilization, Receives Weapons, Anti-Helicopter Missiles"]

[Text] At a time when major world capitals were witnessing a flurry of contacts and consultations to prepare a comprehensive international plan to besiege Iran politically and economically and when intelligence services were busy studying a possible military strike against the Iranian regime to punish it for the recent bombings, the Higher Council for National Security in Terhan was reviewing a dangerous large-scale Iranian scheme drafted by the Foreign Security Action Bureau, which is under the command of Rafsanjani.

The Iranian scheme outlines a counter plan that aims at retaliating against any international siege on Iran by a large wave of bombings worldwide, to include Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and other Arab and Islamic countries, and extending to the United States and Europe. Toward this end, Tehran has begun to coordinate with fundamentalist movements and cells, putting them on alert. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard has declared the third state [al-tadbir raqam 3] within its ranks as a prelude to declaring military mobilization all over Iran.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has obtained the details of the Iranian scheme and observed the actions of the pro-Iran fundamentalists in the Arab world, as well as the intensive activity of the "International Islamic Army" and its European cells.

Western security sources in Cyprus have revealed a large-scale Iranian scheme prepared by the Foreign Security Action Bureau, commanded by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The scheme has been approved by the Higher Council for National Security and is now ready for implementation once there is a need. "Need" here is defined as Iran's higher interests and the future of the Islamic revolution. All reports and messages received by Tehran are unanimous that there is an international plan—on which the final touches are now being put—to punish Iran for the recent bombings and for its policy of "exporting the revolution" and consequently threatening world peace and security.

The scheme that was prepared and studied by the highest echelons in Tehran concentrates on reorganizing and reassessing Islamic fundamentalist movements in Arab and Islamic countries, having been through security, political, and financial setbacks recently.

The purpose of this is to revitalize these movements and their cells that are spread all over the world to use them as a primary card once action is taken to discipline Iran. In other words, Iran will rely on these armed fundamentalist movements and cells to explode the situation in the Arab region and carry out large-scale terrorist operations worldwide in retaliation against the international plan against the Iranian regime.

When the Iranian officials sensed the danger, Tehran's doves visited major capitals to prevent any negative consequences. They vigorously denied any involvement of their country in the Buenos Aires and London bombings and the plane incident over Panama.

But people believe that the international community has decided to discipline the Iranian "terrorist beast" to prevent it from standing up again and threatening the new world order. This is clear in the "political appendix" of an Iranian report. The appendix explains the existence of "an international plan being prepared by a large number of states to isolate Iran, besiege it economically and politically, and prepare for a military strike against it."

Iranian political circles believe the international plan is based on the notion that Iran is obstructing peace in the Middle East and that it will be harmed by any settlement between the Arabs and Israel because it will lose many of its bases, supporters, and groups in several Arab and Islamic countries, particularly in Lebanon where Hizballah is viewed as an opponent of the peace process and a fire that can create explosions. Hizballah leaders said most of those who met with U.S. officials and other officials from the big powers said a decision has been made to deal a military blow to fundamentalist movements throughout the world, whether these movements merge with their countries' systems and exercise their doctrines in a democratic manner or continue their hard lines and extremist practices.

Security information from various closely informed Western sources asserts that Israel disciplines, arrests, or assassinates those who take part in terrorist operations against Israeli, U.S., and Western interests.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

These sources pointed out that Israeli political and military officials recently threatened that Israel would pursue those responsible for the recent operations in Argentina, Britain, Panama, and elsewhere and that the Mosad would liquidate them, just as it did with Palestinians who were responsible for the operation against Israeli athletes in Munich in the early seventies. The plan was disclosed just several months ago. The sources added that the Israeli Government is clearing the way for its plan by holding extensive contacts with world countries to convince them of the need to prepare an international plan to confront Iranian terrorism and fundamentalism. All Western intelligence services will coordinate and exchange exceptional information to destroy terrorism and its dangers once and for all.

Pending an international plan to fight terrorism and the completion of preparations to impose an international economic and political siege on Iran, information indicates Israel will carry out its first retaliatory operation in Lebanon. Apparently, the plans to deliver a powerful military strike against Hizballah and the possibility of a partial invasion of Lebanon are still on hold.

Information available to several high authorities in Beirut indicates Israeli threats to Lebanon have not ceased; Israel is waiting for a good opportunity and a green light from the United States. The Americans are now putting some pressure on Syria to talk it into making progress in its negotiations with Israel. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned from his recent tour with the conviction that there is some progress in the Syrian stand and that there are positive indications that give cause for optimism regarding a relaxation in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. For this reason, the Lebanese are now convinced that the current regional and international circumstances are not conducive to a large-scale Israeli retaliatory operation. This, however, does not mean the operation has been canceled. Therefore, the Americans, along with the Israelis, have been eager not to challenge Syria. Christopher was careful to address a message to Iran to warn it against any practices that could obstruct the negotiations or becloud the existing regional situation.

The Iranians are fearful of an ever-increasing international mobilization campaign and accusations against Iran to an extent that leads to Israeli operations that could reach the depths of Iran, especially since the new F-15 aircraft Israel obtained from the United States recently can carry out operations in Iran in daylight and at night.

The Iranians have information that the drawers of the Pentagon have, for more than a year, been housing military plans to strike Iran if it goes too far in building up its military arsenal that threatens Gulf security, and in light of its obstruction of the peace process and exporting terrorism to the world.

For months now, the Iranians have been watching—with extreme caution and apprehension—efforts to establish closer ties between Israel and Turkey. The Iranians are convinced there is an Israeli scheme to besiege the Iranian regime. This conviction has increased as a stronger Israeli presence is felt in the Islamic republics that won independence from the Soviet Union. Recently, Israeli economic cooperation with these republics has developed into military cooperation. In addition, major cities in the Asian Islamic republics are now rife with agents of Israeli military intelligence and Mosad.

International threats, information that followed the recent bombings, and initial information about a worldwide scheme to retaliate against Iran by holding it fully responsible for destabilizing world peace and security have increased the apprehension of Iranians who found that they are subject to international isolation and siege and direct military strikes. Therefore, Iran has decided not to go back on its "finger-biting" policy and to reply to the international scheme by escalating its own plans of supporting fundamentalist movements and using them to defend it, export the revolution and terrorism, and carry out large- scale bombing operations to destroy the peace process and confirm that the Iranian regime is capable of threatening and terrorizing the world.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that the Iranian retaliation plan was set so that it can be executed on various levels and fronts. Within that context, Major General Mohsen Riza'i, alias the "Butcher," the Revolutionary Guard minister, declared "State No. 3" within the commando units of the Basdaran, whose brigades in most Iranian territory were mobilized in anticipation of any surprise military operation against Iran. Reliable sources told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the Supreme Council of the Iranian National Security met last week and decided to declare a state of military mobilization that will remain secret until Iranian officials uncover something that may directly threaten their country.

At the same time, the Foreign Intelligence Ministry, led by 'Ali Fallahian, began to prepare a new plan to contact and coordinate with the fundamentalist groups in the Arab homeland to prepare them for the big battle, simultaneously in more than one Arab country.

Information confirms that the Iranian intelligence plan places emphasis on the "cordon states," that is, the Arab states neighboring Israel which are directly involved in the peace process, such as Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. The information adds that the plan set for Jordan stipulates support for the extremist fundamentalist group "Muhamad's Army," which includes a number of Jordanian fundamentalists who fought in Afghanistan. In this regard, it was learned that a Jordanian individual, Muhammad J. [not further identified], is leading the "Muhammad's Army", organization which suffered a setback when most of its cadres and leaders were arrested and faced trial in 1990. The organization is now trying to work with new members and new sources of support. Western security information suggests that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Ministry-the Central Training Department has started intensive military courses for groups of Jordanian fundamentalists youth in al-Quds Camps in the Kashan region in Iran. Iran will then send them to Jordan to undermine internal Jordanian security after it provides them with weapons and funds.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The Iranians also intensified their secret meetings with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], to activate the PFLP-GC groups and members in Jordan, the West Bank, and certain Western states in exchange for Iranian material and military aid. These Palestinian groups will coordinate and cooperate with Jordanian fundamentalists working with the "Islamic Action" organization, "Muhammad's Army" group and some Afghans.

Iran also decided to activate fundamentalist action inside Egypt through an Iranian official, Rahimi [name as transliterated], who moves among several Arab states to coordinate with the fundamentalist movements in the new scheme. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI learned that Rahimi recently visited the Afghan-Pakistan borders, leading an Iranian delegation, and met there with the Egyptian fundamentalist leader Muhammad al-Islambuli, brother of Oficer Khalid al-Islambuli who assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981. Muhammad al-Islambuli leads large fundamentalist groups inside and outside Egypt. The discussion between him and Rahimi revolved around the means to expand the military action inside Egypt and to change the tactics of the terrorist operations after the Egyptian security forces managed to quell the terrorists, foil their plans, and deal major blows to them.

Western security information indicates an Egyptian fundamentalist group, which was distributed among several European states, has recently entered Egypt by various ways to meet with a number of extremists in Egypt and to hold secret coordination designed to implement the Iranian scheme and work along with the Egyptian fundamentalists residing in several European and Islamic states, including Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, and Lebanon.

Lebanese security sources revealed that for the past few weeks, Egyptian fundamentalist M. [not further identified] Badran has been moving between Beirut, Tehran, and Khartoum, and meeting with officials in the extremist fundamentalist movements to discuss the foreign operations he is preparing. It was learned that "Al-Quds Forces" of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard—which are in charge of foreign operations as part of the so-called "International Islamic Army" and which work in full coordination with fundamentalist cells throughout the world—have been placed on alert in Sudan, Europe, and the United States, with a special emphasis on Europe as the theater of their operations.

In this scneme, the Iranians are wagering on the fundamentalist organizations and movements supporting them. They find in these organizations both a strong bargaining chip and a last defensive line outside Iran. Thus, the Iranian move is focusing on expanding fundamentalist activities in the world, so they will include, in addition to the Arab states, Europe, and America. In Europe, the fundamentalist movements have begun to intensify their activities and coordination, under the sponsorship of security officials in the Iranian embassies, particularly in Bonn, which houses the command of terrorist operations for all western Europe. The most prominent among these contacts are made by Qamaruddin Kharban [name as transliterated], an Algerian "Afghan" fundamentalist official who showed up in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, last week. He held meetings with a number of Arab and Islamic fundamentalists, including a meeting with Turkish groups, as well as contacts with Kurds belonging to the Kurdistan Workers Party in order to achieve joint coordination in the military fields. Some reports say Kharban clashed with a number of extremist leftist Kurds who oppose working in accordance with Islamic political rhetoric, especially since they advocate Marxist thought.

First and foremost, Iran relies on Hizballah in Lebanon. The Iranians know a painful preliminary blow to them can be achieved by striking at Hizballah. Iran's loss of Hizballah will mean losing an important and strategic bargaining chip as part of Iran's regional role and influence on the peace process. From this premise, the Iranian plan assigns a great role to Hizballah. Due to its geographic position and military strength, Hizballah can explode the situation in Lebanon and fire its missiles at Israel. However, there are local and regional restrictions which will diminish the Iranian wager on Hizballah.

In recent days, the party's leadership declared general mobilization and placed its bases and camps in a state of alert in anticipation of a large-scale Israeli operation or a series of qualitative operations against strategic and sensitive targets, including the assassination of senior officials. However, this party is wagering on its ability to avenge painful operations carried out against it in Lebanon through its cells throughout the world, particularly in Europe, Latin America, and Africa.

The party recently received a large amount of money which ended its financial crisis. It also received huge quantities of arms and missiles, including "Sathmar" [name as transliterated] anti-helicopter missiles. Moreover, the Iranians began to increase their presence and elements in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut by establishing a large security and political coordination office. This office is designed to reach a new and unified formula and position, along with Hizballah and other pro-Iranian Islamic and Palestinian factions, regarding ongoing political developments in the world.

Will this Iranian plan succeed so Iran, through the bargaining chip of fundamentalism, can compensate externally for what it may lose internally? Knowledgeable diplomatic and security circles do not deny Iran's ability to threaten internatnnional security and stability through terrorism, which it has thus far pursued successfully. These circles, however, indicate that Tehran's ability to export both "the revolution" and terrorism is linked to Iran's ability to make use of international political contradictions and the failure to establish an international alliance against Iran, as well as the lack of any harmonious, clear, comprehensive, and serious plan to confront Iran.

For the first time, there looms in the horizon the features of a wide international plan stemming from both world consensus and eagerness to prevent anyone from obstructing the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

peace process. This plan also stems from a serious desire to confront terrorism, especially if it turns into a basic threat to world stability. These circles add that if Iran escalates the international situation, this will place it alone against the whole world which may not be content with economic blockade and political isolation. The world may also consider military plans to confront Iranian terrorism, whether by dealing a very painful military blow to Tehran or by instigating domestic bloody disturbances whose components are abundant. At the same time, the Arab and Islamic states can be supported in order to confront the extremist fundamentalist movements Iran is relying upon.

Here, a senior U.S. security official wonders: What will happen to the extremist fundamentalist movements and organizations if the mastermind, represented by Iran, receives a very painful military blow? The answer is linked to the accelerating regional and international political and military events.

Israeli Air Raids on South Lebanon Condemned

LD1608103894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has strongly condemned the recent raids by the Zionist regime's air force on southern Lebanon, describing them as part of a preplanned conspiracy against the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hezbollah.

The spokesman, Mr. Sarmadi, referring to the continued siege of two villages, Yuhmur and Arnun in the south of Lebanon, and to the fact that foodstuffs and medicine are not reaching the inhabitants, said: The Western media accuse southern Lebanon Muslims of violating human rights and of terroristic activities, whereas the Zionist regime continues its expansionist policy in the south of Lebanon by violating human rights.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said: The United States, by adopting a policy of double standards vis-a-vis human rights, and while accusing the victims of terrorism of violating human rights without any justification, is preventing the Security Council from condemning the Zionist regime for its violating the basic rights of the people of Lebanon and for bombing residential areas.

Official on Progress of POW Exchange With Iraq

LD1508180294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Simultaneous with the start of the commemoration of Sacred Defense Week, the first permanent exhibition of art and handicrafts of the POW's of the imposed war will be held in Tehran. The head of the general office of the counterintelligence department of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, who is also in charge of POW affairs, announced this in an interview with reporters today. [passage omitted]

Referring to the latest efforts to exchange the remaining Iranian and Iraqi POW's, he said: So far, a total of 93,212 POW's have been exchanged. Out of this number, 39,043 were Iranian; the released Iraqi POW's number 54,169.

He then said that procrastination by Iraqi officials is impeding the prisoner exchange process. Producing documented evidence, he added: At present, 31,778 Iranian combatants, who are classed as POW's, missing in action, or martyrs, still remain in Iraqi territory.

Commentary Views Velayati's Visit to Kyrgyzstan

LD1408205294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the accompanying delegation, on the fourth leg of the Central Asian countries tour, arrived in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, on Saturday, 13 August.

In Bishkek, Mr. Velayati conferred with high-ranking Kyrgyz officials on promoting bilateral and regional cooperation. The two sides also reviewed joint efforts in bringing about regional stability and establishing peace in Tajikistan.

Mr. Velayati discussed some of these topics during his meeting with the Kyrgyz President Mr. Askar Akayev and the two sides, while expressing their views on matters of mutual interest, achieved common understanding and identity of views.

Mr. Askar Akayev underlined the role of Iran as a big regional government, adding that following Iran's peacekeeping policies is a guarantee for regional peace and tranquility.

The Republic of Kyrgyzstan, with 4.5 million population is a country which has an abundance of resources, from the point of view of agriculture and industrial structure. In this connection one can cite conducive conditions for agriculture and animal husbandry and the resources that the country has in the sectors of oil, mining, metals, and food industry. As the country is situated between two important rivers and has mountainous terrain, it also enjoys good power generating resources and is active in the export of electricity.

Given all these resources the Republic of Kyrgyzstan is confronted with problems in connection with transportation of goods to other parts of the world, as it does not have proper linked roads and is mostly mountainous.

Therefore, during the meetings with the senior Iranian officials, the high-ranking Kyrgyz officials have always indicated their inclination for promoting cooperation with Iran, specially in the field of transportation.

At present, too, the trend of agreements reached between the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, on economic cooperation and cooperation in cultural, technical, commercial, trade, and transportation fields enjoys relative progress.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

At any rate experts of political-economic matters say that the consolidation of Kyrgyzstan ties with regional countries including Iran, and the Republic's active participation in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] sessions and in international and regional meetings can complement the two countries' ties, and at the same time they are quite significant in so far as Kyrgyzstan's economic progress is concern.

Therefore, Dr. Velayati's visit will help the regional countries in acquiring a common vision specially with respect to the said area and leave a great impact in establishing peace and tranquility in the region, together with bringing about economic, trade, and cultural progress.

Clergy Warned on Using Army as 'Tool of Oppression'

MM1608091094 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 16 Aug 94 p 12

[Report by Safa Haeri: "Iranian Officers Warn Clergy Over Oppression"]

[Text] In a rare sign of public dissent in the Iranian military, a group of senior officers has warned the country's clerical rulers about the danger of using the armed forces for quelling popular discontent.

The appeal demonstrates how serious is the popular sense of frustration with the government's economic policies, which expressed itself in rioting last month at Qazvin. It indicates that the armed forces are intent on preserving their status of being above politics, and not acting as a tool of oppression for unpopular policies.

It will not be lost on the country's rulers that the Shah fell because the Army, the most modern in the region, refused to go on to the streets to prop up the tottering peacock throne.

In a joint letter addressed to the "Political Leadership," four senior serving officers from the Air Force, the Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards), the Land Forces and the Law Enforcement Forces express their "deepest anxiety" about the continuation of the "present total disorganisation."

The letter, signed on behalf of "a great number of officers, personnel and soldiers of the Iranian Armed Forces," warned that the Army, which has offered hundreds of thousands of its best sons for the defence of the Iranian nation, can "no more remain idle and silent" while the country is threatened by "aggression from outside and disintegration from inside." It called on the "Political Leadership" to take "appropriate measures and find wise and sound solutions" to this state of affairs.

Observers said the letter, without being a threat, presents an important challenge to the clerical leadership. "The signatories may have pronounced their own life sentence, but, nevertheless, nothing will be the same again in Iran, as the 'Great Dumb' (a nickname for the Armed Forces) seems to have recovered its tongue and started to talk," said one analyst.

The fact that the signatories have condemned an attack "by forces of repression" on a recent meeting of a "group of patriotic politicians" including Mr Dariush Foruhar, the leader of the Secular Iranian Nation Party (INP) "whose only sin was to express the people's demands" indicates that the officers are followers of the late Dr Mohammad Mosadegh, the prime minister who paid for his nationalisation of the British-dominated Iranian oil industries in the Fifties by being deposed in 1953 in a CIA-sponsored coup.

The signatories are Brigadier General Reza Pardis, Commander of Air Force Operations; Pasdar Brigadier General Mo'ez Khadem Hosseini, Commander of the First Brigade of the 10th Division's Special Forces; Pasdar Brigadier General Seyyed Hamid Sadr ol Sadet, Commander of the Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari Province's Law Enforcement Forces; and Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Kardan, Interim Commander of the 55th Division's Airborne Operations.

A spokesman for the INP refused to comment, but confirmed that all the signing Officers were "known and active."

Alleged MKO Member Confession Reported

LD1308162494 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13, Irna—Bahram 'Abbas Zadeh, a member of the terrorist Mojaheden-e Khalq Organization (MKO) said here today that he was to plant a bomb at Makki Sunni Mosque in southeastern city of Zahedan on the orders of the MKO to create tension between the Sunnis and Shias in the country.

'Abbas Zadeh who hails from Ardebil in northwestern Iran, told IRNA in an interview:

"I joined the MKO through an old friend of mine in 1372 (1993) and entered the domestic headquarters of the MKO and was dispatched to Iraq at the beginning of the current calendar year 1373 (1994). After some military training I returned to Iran and was assigned to plant a bomb at Makki mosque in Zahedan."

"At the beginning of this calendar year the MKO ordered me to leave the country. I left the country illegally and arrived in Turkey. In Turkey I stayed at a hotel and met one MKO agent who gave me a forged passport and took me to Jordan and then to Iraq."

On his training in Iraq, he said he underwent one-week training at Ashraf headquarters in the suburb of Baghdad.

"Then I was moved to Abu Gharib Garrison near Baghdad. I and four others were taught how to use bombs. My commanders and trainers were Mahbubeh Jamshidi and Azra Alavi. After 10 days of training I had a meeting with Azra Alavi and Mehri Hajizadeh. They told me I would have to fulifill an important mission under their command."

On his arrival in Iran, he said that after ending the training he was moved to Baghdad. "In the morning of Tasua (the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

ninth day of Moharram and the eve of Ashura) I along with two MKO agents and two Iraqi officers moved towards Iranian borders in a car.

"After arriving at the border area, the officers showed me the path with a map. I crossed the western boder into Iran at night."

On his relationship with the terrorist Mehdi Nahvi who planted a bomb in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) [God's peace be upon him], he said, "I was told in Iraq that my next appointment would be at Bahman Arts Hall in southern Tehran and that they would let me know about the exact time by phone. I contacted them on Tuesday and was told that I should be at the venue at 1000 on Wednesday. I went there and met Mehdi Nahvi, the guy whom I had seen at Abu-Gharib Garrison. He gave me a flask in which a bomb was placed with a map of Makki mosque in Zahedan.

"Nahvi told me that in the light of the bomb blast on Ashura (10th of Moharram) at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as), the bombing in Zahedan (where I was assigned to) would prompt a conflict between the Shias and the Sunnis.

"He made a new appointment with me at 1000 the next Sunday after my return from Zahedan to escape from the country, but, the appointment was automatically cancelled due to my arrest and I met him once again at the hospital in Tehran after he was shot."

Asked where he had been arrested, he replied, "I was arrested on Thursday 23 June 1994 when I was in a bus on my way to Zahedan to carry out my mission."

Found Guilty, Hung

LD1308191094 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Zahedan, Aug 13, IRNA—A member of the terrorist Mojaheden-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who was found guilty of planning to bomb Sunni Makki mosque in this city was hanged here this afternoon amid "Death to America" chants of the people who had gathered to see the hanging of the would-be bomber.

Bahram 'Abbas Zadeh who was arrested on 23 June while on his way to bomb the Sunni Makki mosque had confessed during his trial that MKO had planned the bombing of Makki mosque in order to create Sunni-Shi'ite strife within the country.

'Abbas Zadeh was hanged at Khayyam Square only a couple of blocks from the very mosque he had set out to bomb. Both Shia and Sunni local personalities were present during the hanging.

The verdict of the court of the Islamic revolution on 'Abbas Zadeh read "After the cruel move of the hypocrites (as MKO is known in Iran), the enemies of religion, in the blessed shrine of the Eighth Imam (a.s.) [God's peace be upon him] and the plan to bomb the site of the Friday prayer of the the Sunni brothers in Zahedan... the divine verdict in the case of the defendant 'Abbas Zadeh will be executed." [passage omitted]

Execution Denounced

NC1508121794 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The pitiful clerical regime has finally staged the last act of one of its ridiculous scenarios in which it introduced some unknown person named Bahram 'Abbas Zadeh as an alleged member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] and accused him of placing a bomb in the Makki mosque in Zahedan. And then it announced through its news agency that he has been executed.

This report of the clerical regime contains the latest lies of its SAVAK [the late shah's intelligence organization] about the bomb explosion in the shrine of Imam Reza. After the killing of another person named Mehdi Nahvi, who they claim was the agent who planted the bomb in the shrine of Imam Reza, 'Abbas Zadeh was allegedly the sole remaining witness to the preposterous scenario rigged up by the clerical regime's SAVAK.

Apparently, in order to extricate itself from the humiliating quagmire caused by its crime in the precincts of the Imam Reza shrine and so that its amateurish histrionics will not further anger and horrify the Iranian people, the clerical regime announced the killing of these two individuals in order to close the dossier. It would thus forestall any international investigation, as the Iranian resistance had demanded.

Prior to disseminating the report on this execution, last night the clerical regime's SAVAK forced him to appear on television and repeat the anti-MKO remarks dictated by the disgraceful clerics of the regime. [passage indistinct].

Opposition Radio on Removal of Qazvin Governor

NC1508114294 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Following the heroic uprising by the people of Qazvin against the clerical regime, the Khomeyni regime removed the governor of that city. The report of his removal was carried by the regime's morning newspapers yesterday [14 August] although the regime's officials refrained from mentioning it on radio and television.

According to its own publications, the regime's deputy interior minister was present at the ceremony to introduce the new Qazvin governor. This agent was so terrified of the continuation of the uprising by the Qazvin residents that he called on all the regime's employees to be vigilant.

During the wrathful uprising of the people of Qazvin, a large number of the regime's employees in the city fled in fear of the fury of the risen people of Qazvin.

The ruling clerics' efforts to cover up and censor the reports on the heroic uprising by the people of Qazvin have reached such preposterous levels that the regime's newspapers have also voiced protests.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The government newspaper SALAM wrote in yesterday's edition that while the reports on last year's [as heard] Los Angeles riots had made the headlines of all newspapers, reports on Qazvin were given as much importance as a traffic jam on a U.S. highway. This regime newspaper admitted that the regime had sought to disguise the details of the incident.

Opposition Radio Blames Regime for Attack

NC1508112894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Station commentary: "The Regime's Involvement in the Bloodletting in the Qal'at Dizah Incident"]

[Text] The emergence of civil war and continued killings in Iraqi Kurdistan have paved the way for the Islamic Republic of Iran to intervene in the internal affairs of the regional Kurdistan Government and provided them a better opportunity to kill the people of Kurdistan.

In continuation of this aggression and intervention by the Islamic Republic in the internal affairs of Iraqi Kurdistan, some days ago the city of Qal'at Dizah was subjected to a savage hail of artillery and Katyusha fire, leaving the people wallowing in blood in tears.

Scores of people—women, children, and old people—were wounded, maimed, or killed. The latest crime in Qal'at Dizah has once again shocked the consciences of every noble person and every patriotic Kurd, and has plunged the people of Kordestan into immense grief and sorrow.

After a few days elapsed after the heart-rending, criminal incident at Qal'at Dizah, investigations confirmed that this bombardment, which came from within Iranian territory, was ordered by the clerical regime and was carried out by a heavy artillery unit of the Islamic Republic. The blood of the Qal'at Dizah martyrs is dripping from the fangs and talons of the clerics.

Even though the efforts to decimate the population of Kordestan and devastate all parts of Kordestan is part of the daily agenda and the basic policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and the Qal'at Dizah bombardment is an extension of the attacks on a major part of the Iraqi Kurdistan border areas by the regime—the Islamic Republic is also pursuing other objectives by perpetrating this atrocity against the people of Qal'at Dizah.

By its attack on Qal'at Dizah, the Islamic Republic is seeking to drive home to the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and all the friends and supporters of the Kurdish people that their incessant efforts aimed at ending the fratricidal war and at returning peace and tranquility to Kordestan are of no avail due to the existence of a regime such as Iran's. Therefore, the clerics—who have managed to conceal their hostility against the regional government of Kurdistan and the nascent experiment in this part of Kurdistan, but who overtly refer to it as the second Israel, and cannot tolerate its existence—wish to eliminate the residents of the border areas by all possible means and at all costs, including by committing such crimes as this. These are aimed at wresting these areas from the control of the regional government of Kurdistan in order to use this region to topple this government and interfere in the internal affairs of Kurdistan.

Therefore, by committing such horrible crimes as at Qal'at Dizah, the regime seeks to intimidate the residents of the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan and thus to undermine their ability to defend themselves, their birthplace, and their homeland. It wishes in this way to pave the way for the implementation of the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran condemns the Islamic Republic of Iran as the perpetrator of the latest atrocity in Qal'at Dizah and as the formulator of all inimical plots against the Kurdish people. The DPK conveys its sympathies to all the families of the victims of this incident and the people of Qal'at Dizah in general, as well as to all the people of Kordestan and shares their grief and sorrow with prayers for the swift recovery of the wounded and injured.

Our party hopes that the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan will become more vigilant and will try hard to foil the clerical regime's plots against them. It hopes the Kordish people in [Iranian] Kordestan and will take a decisive stance against the unbridled aggression of that regime and will expose its designs to the international community, to public opinion. This way they will block the clerical regime's ability to hatch conspiracies and shed blood in Iraqi Kurdistan.

It is clear that if we end the fratricidal war and adopt a policy of peace and brotherliness, that regime's plots will be thwarted further and it will fail to attain its unholy objectives.

Clash Over Satellite Dishes Reported

NC1508115794 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The people of Tehran's Ekbatan Township have clashed with the regime's basiji [mobilization force] agents, who were forcibly trying to confiscate satellite dishes. According to reports, at 2200 hours on 28 July a group of the regime's Guards and basijis raided Ekbatan Township. This savage attack was resisted by the people; Ekbatan residents grappled with the agents.

Following this fracas, the repressive law enforcement forces—who were quite panic-stricken—arrived on the scene and began firing. This clash continued until midnight. The fear-riddled regime also sent in the criminal Revolutionary Guards from the prosecutor's office.

Reports received indicate that during this clash, the regime's repressive agents arrested some of the people and took them into custody. This action aroused the fury and loathing of the Ekbatan residents against the regime.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Four Opposition Groups Issue Statement on Refugees

NC1408074194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Aug 94

["Text" of statement issued by four Iranian opposition organizations in Paris on 29 July 1994]

[Text] Following a brief interval, the handing over of Iranian political refugees to the Islamic Republic's police has sparked a wave of opposition by Iranians in Europe, the United States, and Canada, protesting the agreements between the governments of Iran and Turkey on handing over political refugees and the implementation of this criminal agreement.

Recent information indicates that house searches continue on a regular basis especially in Ankara. Several people have been arrested in these house searches; the names of three people who will definitely be turned over to the Iranian police are: Nafis Anbarteh, file number A-4010; Kurosh Dowlatsavayi, file number D- 648; and Mohammad Reza Jazebizadeh, file number D-684. Four other people who were arrested have been transferred to an area known as the (Haci) camp in (Sofyan) region.

Between 10 and 11 July 1994 a certain Mohammad Ra'uf Sahami, whose request for refugee status had been accepted by Canada and who was waiting to go that country, was arrested and handed over to the Iranian police. Another person, Ahmad Amjadi, whose request had been accepted by the Turkish branch of the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] and who had been accepted by Finland, was arrested by the Turkish police for handing over to the Iranian police.

On 15 July, the Turkish police gathered together the refugees in (Hersahid) town, warning that those whose identity card date had expired should leave Turkey within a month. Recently, in order to put pressure on the refugees, the validity of these identity cards was limited to 15 months and it was announced that once that period expires, the refugees will have no right to remain in Turkey, even if their refugee status has been accepted.

Things have gone so far that Iranian police agents, with the cooperation of the Turkish police, go to camps housing Iranian refugees and, in the presence of the Turkish police demand that the refugees return to Iran, threatening that if they refuse they will be returned to Iran by the Turkish police and will be punished.

All these things are happening at a time when the UNHCR office in Turkey is refusing to accept refugees or even register their names, saying that the registration of names is contingent upon acceptance by the police. The UNHCR is also shunning any responsibility for the Turkish Government's handing over of Iranian refugees to the Iranian police.

Expressing deep concern over the situation of the defenseless Iranian refugees in Turkey and deep regrets over the biased irresponsibility displayed by the UNHCR office in Turkey toward the criminal agreement on the extradition of political opponents, we recall that this agreement is contrary to all international norms and to the UN Charter and the Geneva Convention on refugees. We once again call on all humanitarian and democratic forces, forums, and personalities not to spare any effort to effectively prevent the implementation of this inhuman agreement and to let the world hear the cry for help of the refugees whose lives are being threatened by the collusion between the Iranian and Turkish Governments.

[Signed] The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran; the Organization of the Union of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan; the Organization of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan Guerrilla-Minority; the Organization of Iran's Revolutionary Workers—Rah-e Kargar.

[Dated] Paris, 29 July 1994.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Ending Dependence on United States

BK1308112594 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S. Decision and a Correct Strategy for Us"]

[Text] A U.S. State Department spokesman confirmed on 9 August that the proposal to supply 38 F-16 planes to Pakistan is being put in cold storage. He was commenting on the statement by Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador to New Delhi, that Washington has abandoned the idea of supplying F-16 planes to Pakistan. The State Department spokesman said that during his visit to South Asia early this year, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott proposed to Pakistan that it freeze its nuclear program in a manner that the United States could verify. Since Pakistan rejected the proposal, the proposal of supplying the planes was scrapped.

The position stated by the State Department spokesman and the statement by the U.S. ambassador in New Delhi are not revelations to Pakistanis. The United States has maintained for a long time that it cannot sell or export any defence materiel to Pakistan because fo the Pressler Amendment—a position Pakistan has always protested. According to Pakistan, the agreement to sell the planes is purely a business deal, and since Pakistan has already paid for these planes, there is no justification in withholding delivery. Unfortunately, however, the U.S. Congress does not see any weight in our argument. The U.S. Administration once tried to waive application of the Pressler Amendment temporarily and deliver the planes. The Jewish and Indian lobbies in the Congress, however, prevented the move and the U.S. Administration reverted to its earlier position of refusing to deliver the planes.

Commenting on Wisner's statement, Pakistani Embassy circles in Washington say that although they do not expect the planes will be delivered through waiver of the Pressler Amendment, they do hope that there will be "some sort of a

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

way out." We do not know the rationale behind the optimism expressed by the Pakistani Embassy circles in Washington. The United States seems unwilling to provide the planes. What should be our strategy in this situation?

We understand that instead of continuing to cajole the United States, we should concentrate only on the return of the money we paid for the planes so that we can purchase the planes we need from other sources. We have been so disappointed by the U.S. Government that we cannot expect any better treatment from that country. Therefore, instead of wasting time in the pursuit of these planes, we should put more emphasis on receiving our money back. Simultaneously, we should accelerate the efforts to purchase the weapons we like from alternative sources.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the other day that since it has been disappointed by the United States, Pakistan is trying to purchase the planes from alternative sources. We understand that we should adopt this option with due seriousness and make a final decision to purchase the planes of our choice from any available source. At the same time, we should make it clear to the United States that we are extremely disappointed with its attitude and are very dissatisfied with the treatment we received from a friendly country.

As a logical corollary to this position, we should accelerate our efforts to diversify our foreign policy and do away with our total dependence on the United States for all our defense needs and seek alternative sources for defense equipment. The most important thing is we should pursue the path of self-reliance in economic and defense matters. Of course, Pakistan is not a big country, but it is not small either, and its resources are not so limited that it cannot achieve economic self-reliance. No one in the world respects aid seekers who are always at the mercy of others. After all, Pakistan's aid has remained suspended for the last four years, but we have survived without it. We can totally get rid ourselves of our dependence on the United States if we pledge resolutely to do so and formulate our policies accordingly.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.